

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S FINAL EXHORTATIONS
2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14

Introduction

We've seen that no letter of Paul's written to a Church is more intimate and personal in nature than 2 Corinthians. In it he bared his soul and professed his abiding love for the Corinthians despite the apparent fickleness of their affection for him.

We've seen that what concerned Paul more than anything was the presence of some false teachers who had entered the Church and were claiming to be apostles. These people promoted their own ideas and at the same time sought to discredit both the person and the message of the apostle Paul.

In this epistle, we've seen how Paul defended the authenticity of both his apostleship and his message.

Tonight we'll see as Paul closes out his letter to the Corinthians, he left them some final short exhortations.

READ 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

I. FAREWELL.

In one respect, it can mean to ***"be full of cheer"***

But in another respect, the word means to ***"be well"*** which is the meaning that we draw from the context of how the word is used.

It brings to mind what Paul told various Churches near the end of his epistles to them.

A. ROMANS.

Romans 16:24—"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

In fact, Paul uses this phrase or one similar to it in several of his letters.

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B. 1 CORINTHIANS.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14—"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity."

C. GALATIANS.

Galatians 6:9—"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

D. EPHESIANS.

Ephesians 6:10—"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

E. PHILIPPIANS.

Philippians 4:8-9—"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

F. COLOSSIANS.

Colossians 4:2-6

G. 1 THESSALONIANS.

1 Thessalonians 5:11ff

H. HEBREWS.

Hebrews 13:20-21

As he closed out this letter, he wanted them to be well!
He wanted them to prosper in the Lord!

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FAREWELL...

II. BE PERFECT.

Be thoroughly complete, repaired, and adjusted! We need to aim for perfection! Our desire should be no less than to be just like Jesus!

In order for that to be accomplished, we must allow God to fine tune our life!

The Christian life is a lifetime of being adjusted!

2 Peter 3:18—“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Colossians 2:6-8

His desire was that each of them would become everything that Christ wanted them to become! And Christ wanted to conform each of them to His image!

In order for that to be accomplished in their lives they needed to follow James admonition:

James 1:21-22—“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

The Word of God will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Word of God!

If you will receive it, the Word of God will be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path!

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FAREWELL...BE PERFECT...

III. BE OF GOOD COMFORT.

Paul is not saying for them to be comforted, but to be comforters!

Help those who are not as spiritually mature as yourself!

The phrase *“be of good comfort”* means *“to call near, to invite or invoke, to exhort.”*

2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Hebrews 10:24-25

1 Corinthians 12:7—“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”

IV. BE OF ONE MIND.

Philippians 2:1-5

Psalms 133:1—“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

V. LIVE IN PEACE.

Be a peacemaker!

Romans 12:18—“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

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Conclusion

If we do the things that are needed for us to **be well**, if we will **continually strive for spiritual maturity** in that we **adjust our lives to make them more like Christ**, if we will **exhort one another unto holy living and good works**, if we will **be unified with the mind of Christ**, and if we will **strive to be peacemakers**, then:

The God of love and peace shall be with us:

- 1) In our problems.
- 2) In our decisions.
- 3) In every area of our lives.