

2 CORINTHIANS 12

NLET

PAUL RELATES VISIONS AND UNVEILINGS FROM YaHWeH

1 So then¹, to vaunt oneself is not profitable for me². For,³ I shall go on toward visions and unveilings from YaHWeH⁴.

2 I know a man in connection with an anointed One who fourteen years ago –

- whether *it was* in connection with *his* body or *not*, I do not know;
- whether *it was* outside of the body or not, I do not know;

the God knows –

the one such as this having been snatch away to a third heaven.

3 And, I know the man such as this –

- whether in connection with *his* body,
 - whether outside⁵ of the body,
- I do not know; the God knows – 4 because he was snatched away into the Paradise.

And, he heard inexpressible utterances which *are* not ones which are coming out by a man to speak.

5 In behalf of the one such as this I shall boast. Now, in behalf of myself I shall not boast, except in connection with the weaknesses *that are* mine⁶.

6 For, if ever I might wish to boast for myself, I shall not be without wisdom. For, I shall speak TRUTH. Now, I am having consideration for *you*.

Do not even begin to reckon to me above

- what you are seeing *in* me or

- anything⁷ you are hearing from me,
- 7 even with respect to the superiority of the revelations.

PAUL RELATES HIS EXPERIENCE WITH A THORN

8 In order that I might not be raised up, a thorn with respect to the flesh was given to me – *specifically*, a messenger of Satan⁹,

- in order that it might strike me repeatedly,
- with the result that I might not be exalted.

8 Concerning this three *times* I beseeched the Lord so that it might withdraw from me.

9 And, He lastingly said to me, “The Grace *that is* Mine keeps on being enough for you. For, the Power *that is* Mine¹⁰ keeps on perfecting itself in weakness.”

So then, most gladly I shall rather vaunt myself in connection with the weakness *that is* mine, in order that the Power of the Anointed One might dwell in me.

10 On which account, I am well-pleased

- in connection with weaknesses,
 - in connection with insolence,
 - in connection with distresses,
 - in connection with persecutions,
 - in connection with¹¹ difficulties
- in the name of an anointed One.

For, whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

11 I have lastingly become foolish, being one who is vaunting himself¹².

You, *for your parts*, forced me. For, I, *for my part*, ought to have been commended by you.

PAUL DISPLAYED

THE SUPERNATURAL SIGNS OF A GENUINE APOSTLE

For, I lacked NOTHING of the superior apostles, even

¹ 62% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘So then,’ here. On the basis of 37% the NU has ‘It is necessary’.

² 96.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘is ... profitable for me’ (a present tense verb and a dative pronoun) here. On the basis of 2.3% the NU has ‘being profitable, on the one hand’ (a participle and a particle).

³ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘For,’ here instead of ‘Now,’.

⁴ ‘YaHWeH’ – The Greek has the word ‘Lord’ (Κυρίου) without a definite article here. Paul and other New Testament writers often use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old Testament where the name YaHWeH appears.

⁵ 99.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘outside’ here instead of ‘without’.

⁶ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the possessive pronoun translated as ‘that are mine’ here.

⁷ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the indefinite pronoun translated as ‘anything’ here.

⁸ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the conjunction which might be translated as ‘for this reason’ here.

⁹ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the spelling ‘Satan’ here instead of ‘Satana’.

¹⁰ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the possessive pronoun translated as ‘that are Mine’ here.

¹¹ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the preposition translated as ‘in connection with’ here instead of the conjunction ‘and’.

¹² 83.9% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the participle translated as ‘being one who is vaunting himself’ here. On the basis of 10.4% the NU omits it.

if I am a nobody.

12 On the one hand, *supernatural* signs of the Apostles were practiced amongst you with all persistence in connection with

- *supernatural* signs, and
- wonders, and
- powerful deeds.

13 For, what is the thing *by* which you treated as inferior more than the other Ekklesias, except that I myself, *for my part*, did not press heavily upon you?! Forgive for me the injustice – *that is*, this one!

PAUL INTENDS TO COME TO CORINTH A THIRD TIME

14 Look! A third *time* ¹³ readily I am able to come to you. And, I shall not press heavily upon you. For, I am not seeking *the things that are yours*¹⁴. Rather, *I am seeking you!*

For, the children are not obliged to store up *things* for the parents. Rather, the parents *are obliged to store up things* for the children.

15 Now, with pleasure I, *for my part*, shall spend and shall be spent for the sake of the psyches *that are yours*.

If even¹⁵ being one who loves you extraordinarily well, am I being loved less? 16 So be it.

PAUL ASSURES THE CORINTHIAN DISIPLES THAT THE THIRD VISIT WILL BE NO DIFFERENT THAN PREVIOUS ONES

I, *for my part*, did not weigh you down. Rather, being one ready to do anything, I took hold of you by deceit.

17 *It was NOT* anyone of the ones I dispatched to you *that* by agency of him I took advantage of you, *was it?*

18 I entreated Titus; and, I dispatched the brother with *him*.

Titus did not take advantage of you, *did he?*

Did we not walk about with the same spirit? Did we not *walk about* with the same footsteps?

19 Again¹⁶ are you supposing that we are defending ourselves to you? Directly opposite¹⁷! We speak of the¹⁸ God in connection with an anointed One.

Now, the *things* – all of *them* – beloved ones, are for the edification of you.

PAUL EXPRESSES HIS FEAR

20 For, I fear for myself *that*

- perhaps, having come, I shall find
 - you not such as I wish; and,
 - I, *for my part*, shall be found by you not such as you wish,

and that

- perhaps *I shall find* –
 - strife,
 - jealousy¹⁹,
 - strong feelings,
 - factious ambitions,
 - slanderings,
 - whisperings,
 - puffed up ones,
 - instabilities,

that

- 21 not again, when I have come, *I shall find*
 - the God *that is* mine might humble me with respect to you and
 - I might mourn many of the ones who previously morally failed and ones who did not change their minds in reference to
 - * the *moral* uncleanness, and
 - * fornication, and
 - * licentiousness
 which they practiced.

¹³ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include include the demonstrative pronoun 'this' here.

¹⁴ 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the pronoun translated as 'the things that are yours' here.

¹⁵ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word translated as 'even' here.

¹⁶ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Again' here instead of 'Not long ago'.

¹⁷ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Directly opposite' here instead of 'Over against'.

¹⁸ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

¹⁹ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'jealousy' (a singular noun) here instead of 'jealousies' (a plural noun).