

2 CORINTHIANS 13

NLET

PAUL'S TESTIMONY TO THE CORINTHIAN DISCIPLES

1 This is a third *time that* I am coming to you.

"Upon a mouth of two witnessed – even three! – every utterance shall be stood." ¹

2 I have lastingly declared publicly and I stated publicly when being present the second *time* and being away now, I am writing² to the ones who have lastingly *and* morally failed in the past and to the rest – *that is*, all – that, if ever I should come again, I shall not spare *them*.

3 Since you keep on seeking proof of the Anointed *One* Who is speaking in me, Who in regard to you is not weak. Rather, He is strong in you.

4 For, in fact, if He was crucified in consequence of a weakness. However, He keeps on living in consequence of a power of God.

For, also we, *for our parts*, are weak in connection with Him. However, we shall live ourselves³ together with HIM in consequence of a power of God in regard to us.

PAUL URGES THE CORINTHIAN DISCIPLES TO EXAMINE THEMSELVES

5 Put yourselves to the test *to see* whether you are in connection with the Faith.

Examine yourselves. Or, do you not observe yourselves that Jesus *the* Anointed is⁴ in you? If not, you are ones who have not been assayed.

PAUL EXPRESSES HIS HOPE AND PRAYER

6 Now, I hope that you shall come to know that we, *for our parts*, are not ones who have not been approved.

7 Now, I pray⁵ to the God that you, *for your parts*, not do an evil *thing* – not even one,

- not in order that we, *for our parts*, might appear as approved ones; rather,
- in order that you, *for your parts*, might do the *morally beautiful thing*.

PAUL CITES ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CORINTHIAN DISCIPLES

Now, we, *for our parts*, are as ones who have not been assayed.

8 For, we are not able *to do* anything against the Truth; rather, *we are only able to do something* for defense of the Truth.

9 For, we keep on rejoicing whenever we, *for our parts*, might be weak. You, *for your parts*, are strong ones. Now,⁶ we also pray this: the restoration of you.

WHY PAUL HAS WRITTEN AS HE HAS

10 For this reason, while being absent, I am writing these things, in order that, when present, I might not use severity in accord with the authority which the Lord has given to me for the sake of edification and not for the sake of demolition.

A FEW CONCLUDING EXHORTATION

11 As for what remains *to be said*: brothers,

- keep on rejoicing;
- keep on putting things in order;
- keep on being encouraged;
- keep on being like-minded;
- keep on living peaceably!

And, the God of the Love and Peace shall be in the midst of you!

PAUL URGES AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS

12 Greet one another kindly with a holy kiss!

PAUL CONVEYS A GREETING FROM THE HOLY ONE

The Holy Ones – *that is*, all of them – are greeting *you kindly*!

PAUL PRONOUNCES A BLESSING UPON THE CORINTHIAN DISCIPLES

- 13 The Grace of the Lord – *that is*, Jesus *the* Anointed; and,
 - the Love of the God; and
 - the Participation in the Holy Spirit
- be with all of you!*

PAUL ENDS WITH AN AFFIRMATION OF VERITY FOR ALL THAT HE HAS WRITTEN

¹ A reference to Deuteronomy 19:15

² 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'I am writing' here.

³ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'we shall live ourselves' (a future, middle verb) here. On the basis of 4% the NU has 'we shall live' (a future, active verb).

⁴ 99% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), include the verb 'is' here.

⁵ 91% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'I pray' here instead of 'we pray'.

⁶ 94% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the conjunction translated as 'Now,' here.

Amen!

CONCERNING THE CITATION OF F35 IN THE FOOTNOTES OF PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIAN DISCIPLES

The citation of f35 (that is, Family 35 – a set of manuscripts which clearly and thoroughly have unified characteristics) in the footnotes of 2 Corinthians is based on twenty-seven manuscripts. These manuscripts are identified by the following numbers: 18, 35, 141, 201, 204, 386, 444, 824, 928, 986, 1072, 1075, 1249, 1548, 1637, 1725, 1740, 1855, 1864, 1865, 1892, 1897, 2352, 2466, 2554, 2587, and 2723.

Dr. Wilbur Pickering collated all of these manuscripts himself. There are many more manuscripts which ought to be collated. Nonetheless, these twenty-seven manuscripts represent a significant sample of the existing manuscripts.

Manuscript 2554 is a PERFECT representatives of f35 in 2 Corinthians just as it is!

The manuscripts from which two of these manuscripts were copied (that is, their 'exemplars') were also perfect!

For a book of this size the uniformity is impressive!

These manuscripts come from all over the Mediterranean world – Sinai, Jerusalem, Patmos, Constantinople, Bucharest, Trikala, Meteora, Mt. Athos (six different monasteries!), Rome, etc. They are certainly representative of the family, giving us the precise family profile. The family profile of f35 is reflected in the text of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians in these manuscripts without exception!