

The structure of 2 Corinthians 1:12-7:16

<b>A</b>	1:12-22	The Corinthians can rightfully boast in Paul	<b>A'</b>	7:13b-16	Paul can rightfully boast in the Corinthians	'boast'
<b>B</b>	1:23-2:11	Grief and comfort over the painful letter; hope for forgiving the offender	<b>B'</b>	7:8-13a	Grief and comfort over the painful letter; joy after forgiving the offender	'pain' 'grief'
<b>C</b>	2:12-13	Looking for Titus in Macedonia	<b>C'</b>	7:5-7	Finding Titus in Macedonia	At rest; did not find/coming; to/into Macedonia
<b>D</b>	2:14-4:6	Series of contrasts • Belief versus unbelief, centred on believers as <b>letters</b> of the <u>living God</u> , in glory being transformed into his <b>image</b>	<b>D'</b>	6:11-7:4	Series of contrasts • Belief versus unbelief, centred on believers as <b>temple</b> of the <u>living God</u> , in light being transformed into his <b>holiness</b>	2:15 saved/perishing 2:17 peddlers/sincerity 3:3 tablets of stone/hearts 3:6 letter/Spirit 3:7 ministry of death/Spirit 6:14ff whole series of opposites Heart; bold; living God
<b>a</b>	2:14-16a	Death vs. Life	<b>a</b>	6:11-13	Widen your hearts	
<b>b</b>	2:16b-3:3	False vs. true approaches to ministry	<b>b</b>	6:14-7:1	Separate yourselves from uncleanness	
<b>c</b>	3:4-18	Old covenant vs. New	<b>a'</b>	7:2-4	Open your hearts	
<b>b'</b>	4:1-2	False vs. true approaches to ministry				
<b>a'</b>	4:3-6	Darkness versus light				
<b>E</b>	4:7-5:10	Surviving and triumphing despite every hardship (see esp. vv 8-10)	<b>E'</b>	6:1-10	Surviving and triumphing despite every hardship (see esp. vv8b-10)	'Affliction' and 'crushing' Verbs in 4:8 are Nouns in 6:4 – same underlying Greek word
<b>F</b> 5:11-21 the heart of the ministry of reconciliation						

Colossians 1:24

...in my flesh I am **filling up** what is **lacking** in Christ's afflictions

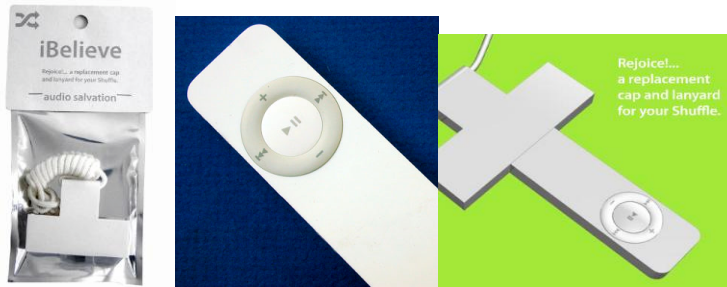
Philippians 2:30

For he [Epaphroditus] nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to **complete** what was **lacking** in your service to me

## Paul's Opponents in Corinth and their accusations against him

They boast of their superior Jewish heritage	11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I.
They seek to demonstrate their authenticity by carrying letters of recommendation, which Paul does not.	3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you?
They lay claim to have had special revelation from God	12:1 .. I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
They allege that they can perform signs and wonders	12:12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.
They claim a superiority over Paul in terms of their eloquence and knowledge	11:6 Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge
They point disparagingly to the fact that he refused financial support from his churches	12:13 For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!
They also insinuated that the Jerusalem collection was merely a covert get-rich-quick scheme on Paul's part	12:16-18 But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. <sup>17</sup> Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? <sup>18</sup> I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps? [See also 8:18-21]
They claim he has no presence and is a weak speaker	10:10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account."
They alleged he barged into others' territory and took credit for their mission work	10:13-15 <sup>13</sup> But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. <sup>14</sup> For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. .. <sup>15</sup> We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. .. we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence
They claim that Paul lacks divine guidance – for example in the change of his travel plans	1:16-17 <sup>16</sup> I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. <sup>17</sup> Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time?
They claim that his life of suffering and setbacks prove that he is not a genuine apostle	6:3-5 3 We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger

## 1 A Plug in Your Ears



2 Corinthians 10: 6 ...being ready to punish every *disobedience*, when your obedience is complete.

### *Disobedience*

Strong 3876 - inattention, i.e. (by implication) disobedience (from 3878)

Strong 3878 - to mishear, i.e. (by implication) to disobey

## 2 Self commendation and commending oneself

Negative view of self commendation • Reflexive pronoun <b>before</b> the verb <i>heauton sunistano</i>	Positive view of commending oneself • Reflexive pronoun <b>after</b> the verb <i>sunistano heauton</i>
3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?	4:2 we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God
5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again	6:4; we commend ourselves in every way:
10:18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends	12:11 I ought to have been commended by you

## 3 No words for money

Greek word	Meaning	Reference
<i>logeia</i>	collection	1 Cor. 16:1 – 2
<i>eulogia</i>	blessing	2 Cor. 9:5
<i>leitourgia</i>	priestly service	9:12; cf. Rom. 15:27
<i>Koinonia</i>	fellowship, partnership, sharing	2 Cor. 8:4; 9:13; cf. the related verb in Rom. 15:27
<i>diakonia</i>	service, ministry	2 Cor. 8:4; 9:1, 12, 13
<i>charis</i>	grace	1 Cor. 16:3; 2 Cor. 8:1, 4, 6, 7, 9; cf. 8:19; 9:8, 14