

الرَّسُولُ يُعَارِضُ الْإِثْهَامَاتِ الْمَوْجِهَةَ إِلَيْهِ

¹ثُمَّ أَطْلُبُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِوَدَاعَةِ الْمَسِيحِ وَجَلِيمِهِ، أَنَا نَفْسِي، بُولُسُ، الَّذِي فِي الْحَضْرَةِ ذَلِيلٌ بَيْنَكُمْ وَأَمَّا فِي الْغَيْبَةِ فَمُتَجَاسِرٌ عَلَيْكُمْ،² وَلَكِنْ أَطْلُبُ أَنْ لَا أَتَجَاسَرَ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ بِالنِّعَةِ الَّتِي يَهَا أَرَى أَنِّي سَأَجْتَرِئُ عَلَى قَوْمٍ يَخْسِبُونَنَا كَأَنَّا نَسْلُكُ حَسَبَ الْجَسَدِ.³ لَأَنَّا وَإِنْ كُنَّا نَسْلُكُ فِي الْجَسَدِ، لَسْنَا حَسَبَ الْجَسَدِ نُحَارِبُ،⁴ إِذْ أَسْلَحُهُ مُخَارِبَتَنَا لِنَسْتَكُ جَسَدِيَّةً بَلْ قَادِرَةٌ بِاللَّهِ عَلَى هَذِهِ خُصُوفٍ،⁵ هَادِمِينَ طُنُوفًا وَكُلَّ غُلُوٍّ يَرْفَعُ ضِدَّ مَعْرِفَةِ اللَّهِ، وَمُسْتَأْسِرِينَ كُلَّ فِكْرٍ إِلَى طَاعَةِ الْمَسِيحِ،⁶ وَمُسْتَعِدِّينَ لَأَنْ نَتَّقِمَ عَلَى كُلِّ عِضْيَانٍ، مَتَى كَمَلَتْ طَاعَتُكُمْ.⁷ أَتُطْرَوْنَ إِلَى مَا هُوَ حَسَبَ الْحَضْرَةِ؟ إِنْ وَثِقَ أَحَدٌ بِنَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ لِلْمَسِيحِ فَلْيَخْسِبْ هَذَا أَيْضًا مِنْ نَفْسِهِ، أَنَّهُ كَمَا هُوَ لِلْمَسِيحِ كَذَلِكَ تَحْنُ أَيْضًا لِلْمَسِيحِ.⁸ فَإِنِّي وَإِنْ أَفْتَحَرْتُ شَيْئًا أَكْثَرَ بِسُلْطَانَاتِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانَا إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ لِبَنِيَانِكُمْ، لَا لِهَذِمِكُمْ، لَا أَجْلُ،⁹ لِنَلَّا أَطْهَرَ كَأَنِّي أَخِيفُكُمْ بِالرَّسَائِلِ.¹⁰ لَأَنَّهُ يَقُولُ، الرِّسَالَةُ ثَقِيلَةٌ وَقَوِيَّةٌ وَأَمَّا حُضُورُ الْجَسَدِ فَضَعِيفٌ وَالْكَلَامُ خَفِيفٌ.¹¹ مِثْلُ هَذَا فَلْيَخْسِبْ أَنَّا كَمَا تَحْنُ فِي الْكَلَامِ بِالرَّسَائِلِ وَتَحْنُ غَائِبُونَ، هَكَذَا تَكُونُ أَيْضًا بِالْفِعْلِ وَتَحْنُ حَاضِرُونَ.¹² لَأَنَّا لَا تَجْتَرِئُ أَنْ نَعُدَّ أَنْفُسَنَا بَيْنَ قَوْمٍ مِنَ الَّذِينَ يَمْدُحُونَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَلَا أَنْ نُقَائِلَ أَنْفُسَنَا بِهِمْ، بَلْ هُمْ، إِذْ يَقِيسُونَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَيُقَائِلُونَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ، لَا يَفْهَمُونَ.¹³ وَلَكِنْ تَحْنُ لَا تَفْتَحِرُ إِلَى مَا لَا يُقَاسُ بَلْ حَسَبَ قِيَاسِ الْقَانُونِ الَّذِي قَسَمَهُ لَنَا اللَّهُ، قِيَاسًا لِلْبُلُوغِ إِلَيْكُمْ أَيْضًا.¹⁴ لَأَنَّا لَا نَمْدُدُ أَنْفُسَنَا كَأَنَّا لَسْنَا تَبْلُغُ إِلَيْكُمْ، إِذْ قَدْ وَصَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ أَيْضًا فِي إِنْجِيلِ الْمَسِيحِ،¹⁵ غَيْرَ مُفْتَحِرِينَ إِلَى مَا لَا يُقَاسُ فِي أَفْعَابِ آخَرِينَ بَلْ رَاجِعِينَ، إِذَا تَمَّا إِيمَانُكُمْ، أَنْ تَتَعَطَّمَ بَيْنَكُمْ حَسَبَ قَانُونِنَا بِزِيَادَةٍ،¹⁶ لِنُبَشِّرَ إِلَى مَا وَرَاءَكُمْ، لَا لِنَمْتَحِرَ بِالْأُمُورِ الْمُعَدَّةِ فِي قَانُونِ غَيْرَتَا.¹⁷ وَأَمَّا مَنْ أَفْتَحَرَ، فَلْيَفْتَحِرْ بِالرَّبِّ،¹⁸ لَأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ مَنْ مَدَحَ نَفْسَهُ هُوَ الْمُرَكِّي، بَلْ مَنْ يَمْدُحُهُ الرَّبُّ.

¹Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:² But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.⁷ Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.⁸ For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:⁹ That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters.¹⁰ For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.¹¹ Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.¹² For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and

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comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.¹³ But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.¹⁴ For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ.¹⁵ Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,¹⁶ To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.¹⁷ But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.¹⁸ For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.