

الرَّسُولُ بُولُسُ يَخْتَبِرُ السَّمَاءَ الثَّالِثَةَ

¹إِنَّهُ لَا يُوَفِّقُنِي أَنْ أَفْتَحِرَ، فَإِنِّي آتِي إِلَى مَتَاطِرِ الرَّبِّ وَإِغْلَاتَانِهِ. ²أَعْرِفُ إِنْسَانًا فِي الْمَسِيحِ، قَبْلَ أَرْبَعِ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، أَفِي الْجَسَدِ؟ لَسْتُ أَعْلَمُ، أَمْ خَارِجَ الْجَسَدِ؟ لَسْتُ أَعْلَمُ، اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ، اخْتُطِفَ هَذَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّالِثَةِ. ³وَأَعْرِفُ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانَ، أَفِي الْجَسَدِ أَمْ خَارِجَ الْجَسَدِ، لَسْتُ أَعْلَمُ، اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ، أَنَّهُ اخْتُطِفَ إِلَى الْفُزْدُوسِ وَسَمِعَ كَلِمَاتٍ لَا يُنْطَلِقُ بِهَا وَلَا يَسُوعُ لِإِنْسَانٍ أَنْ يَتَكَلَّمَ بِهَا. ⁵مِنْ جِهَةٍ هَذَا أَفْتَحِرُ وَلَكِنْ مِنْ جِهَةٍ تَفْسِي لَا أَفْتَحِرُ إِلَّا بِضَعْفَاتِي. ⁶فَإِنِّي إِنْ أَرَدْتُ أَنْ أَفْتَحِرَ لَا أَكُونُ غَيْبًا، لِأَنِّي أَقُولُ الْحَقَّ، وَلَكِنِّي أَتَخَاشَى لِيَلَّا يَطُنَّ أَحَدٌ مِنْ جِهَتِي قَوْقَ مَا يَرَانِي أَوْ يَسْمَعُ مِنِّي. ⁷وَلِيَلَّا أَرْفِعَ يَقْرُطِ الْإِغْلَاتَاتِ، أُعْطِيتُ شَوْكَةً فِي الْجَسَدِ، مَلَكَ السَّيِّطَانِ، لِيَلْطِمَنِي لِيَلَّا أَرْفِعَ. ⁸مِنْ جِهَةٍ هَذَا تَصَرَّعْتُ إِلَى الرَّبِّ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ أَنْ يُعَارِفَنِي. ⁹فَقَالَ لِي: تَكْفِيكَ نِعْمَتِي، لِأَنَّ قُوَّتِي فِي الضَّعْفِ تُكْمَلُ. فَبِكَلِّ سُرُورٍ أَفْتَحِرُ بِالْخَرِيِّ فِي ضَعْفَاتِي لِكَيْ تَحُلَّ عَلَيَّ قُوَّةُ الْمَسِيحِ. ¹⁰لِذَلِكَ أَسْتُرُ بِالضَّعْفَاتِ وَالسَّتَائِمِ وَالضَّرُورَاتِ وَالِاضْطِهَادَاتِ وَالصِّبَقَاتِ لِأَجْلِ الْمَسِيحِ، لِأَنِّي حِينَمَا أَتَا ضَعِيفٌ فَحِينَئِذٍ أَتَا قَوِيٌّ.

مَحَبَةُ الرَّسُولِ لِكَنِيسَةِ كُورِنْثُوسِ

¹¹قَدْ صِرْتُ غَيْبًا وَأَنَا أَفْتَحِرُ، أَنْتُمْ أَلَرْمُومُونِي، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ يَبْغِي أَنْ أَمْدَحَ مِنْكُمْ إِذْ لَمْ أَنْقُصْ شَيْئًا عَنْ فَإِنِّي الرُّسُلِ، وَإِنْ كُنْتُ لَسْتُ شَيْئًا. ¹²إِنَّ عَلَامَاتِ الرَّسُولِ ضَمِنَتْ بِكُمْ فِي كُلِّ صَبْرٍ بِآيَاتٍ وَعَجَائِبَ وَقُوَّاتٍ. ¹³لَئِنْ مَا هُوَ الَّذِي تَقْضُكُمْ عَنْ سَائِرِ الْكِتَائِسِ، إِلَّا أَنِّي أَنَا لَمْ أَثْقُلْ عَلَيْكُمْ؟ سَامِخُونِي بِهَذَا الْظَلَمِ. ¹⁴هَؤُلَاءِ الْمَرَّةُ الثَّالِثَةُ أَتَا مُسْتَعِدٌّ أَنْ آتِيَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَلَا أَثْقُلْ عَلَيْكُمْ، لِأَنِّي لَسْتُ أَطْلُبُ مَا هُوَ لَكُمْ بَلْ إِيَّاكُمْ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَبْغِي أَنْ الْأَوْلَادَ يَدْخَرُونَ لِلْوَالِدِينَ بَلِ الْوَالِدُونَ لِلْأَوْلَادِ. ¹⁵وَأَمَّا أَنَا فَبِكَلِّ سُرُورٍ أَنْفَقْتُ وَأَنْفَقْتُ لِأَجْلِ أَنْفُسِكُمْ، وَإِنْ كُنْتُ كَلَّمَا أَحْبَبْتُكُمْ أَكْثَرَ أَحَبُّ أَقَلِّ. ¹⁶فَلْيَكُنْ. أَنَا لَمْ أَثْقُلْ عَلَيْكُمْ، لَكِنْ إِذْ كُنْتُ مُخْتَلًا أَحَدْتُكُمْ بِمَكْرٍ؟ ¹⁷هَلْ طَمِعْتُ فِيكُمْ بِأَحَدٍ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أَرْسَلْتُهُمْ إِلَيْكُمْ؟ ¹⁸طَلَبْتُ إِلَى تَيْطُسَ وَأَرْسَلْتُ مَعَهُ الْآخَ، هَلْ طَمِعَ فِيكُمْ تَيْطُسُ؟ أَمَا سَلَكْنَا بِدَاتِ الرُّوحِ الْوَاجِدِ، أَمَا بِدَاتِ الْخَطَوَاتِ الْوَاجِدَةِ.

الِاجْتِهَادُ لِلنَّبِيَّةِ

¹⁹أَطْلُبُونَ أَيْضًا أَنَّا تَحْتِجْ لَكُمْ؟ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ

¹It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. ³And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) ⁴How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ⁵Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. ⁶For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. ⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. ¹¹I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. ¹²Truly the

تَكَلَّمْتُ، وَلَكِنَّ الْكُلَّ، أَتَيْهَا الْأَجْبَاءُ، لِأَجْلِ بُنْيَانِكُمْ.²⁰ لَأَنِّي
 أَخَافُ إِذَا جِئْتُ أَنْ لَا أَجِدْكُمْ كَمَا أُرِيدُ وَأَوْجَدَ مِنْكُمْ كَمَا
 لَا تُرِيدُونَ، أَنْ تُوجَدَ خُصُومَاتُ وَمُخَاسَدَاتُ وَسَخَطَاتُ
 وَتَحَرُّبَاتُ وَمَدَامَاتُ وَتَمِيمَاتُ وَتَكِبُّرَاتُ وَتَشْوِيشَاتُ،²¹ أَنْ
 يُذِلَّنِي إِلَهِي عِنْدَكُمْ، إِذَا جِئْتُ أَيْضاً وَأُتَوَّخَ عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ
 مِنَ الَّذِينَ أَخْطَأُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلَمْ يَتُوبُوا عَنِ النَّجَاسَةِ
 وَالزُّرْنَا وَالْعَهَارَةِ الَّتِي فَعَلُوهَا.

signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.¹³ For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.¹⁴ Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.¹⁵ And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.¹⁶ But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.¹⁷ Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?¹⁸ I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?¹⁹ Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.²⁰ For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:²¹ And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.