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As has been recorded in scripture, St. Paul had many concerns with the Church in Corinth. While his first letter was more upbeat, his second letter was more to the point and a condemnation of their misbehavior. What follows is my impression of what that second letter would sound like in the 21st century.

Dear Friends in Corinth;

My first visit to you was a wonderful and joyous occasion. You were happy to hear the Good News about Jesus, how we have all been made right with God the Father through Him. The newer members of the church were even happier that they were included. You seemed to get the message. After my first e-mail to you, I was pleased to learn you had stopped fighting with each other. You were starting to get serious again about the faith and to work together to spread the Good News. The church was growing with new people anxious to hear about God's love for us and the peace that comes from being in a relationship with Him through Jesus. It however makes me sad to learn, some of you are sliding back into your old ways and even your leaders are behaving badly.

Let me share with you the story I told you once before about a farmer who had a large field and he went out to plant seeds. I have shared this story with other churches I have visited. I didn't make up the story. Jesus told the story to his disciples so they could pass it on to others. The story is not just about heaven; it's also about the work we do here. Yes, sometimes the work can be hard. But quit your complaining and start thanking God for the work he has you doing. Don't you know that you are the ones planting the seed? Don't you know that the seed is the Good News about Jesus, and you are supposed to be telling the truth about Jesus? Don't you know you are supposed to be talking and acting like members of the Body of Christ? And you leaders, you are the ones in charge of the body.... Start behaving that way!!! All of you, pay attention to what I am saying!!! We will talk more when I see you. Stop the foolish bragging about your accomplishments. You are only cutting yourself off from the rest of the Church. What you are doing does not impress God, because he already knows what is in your heart. And it doesn't impress me either because I also know what is in your heart. But if you want to hear some bragging, I can tell you a thing or two. What you think about me personally doesn't matter. Most importantly what you think about Jesus and how you act as the Body of Christ does! Now is the time to start making some changes in your lives and stick with them. Be persistent in the work that you are doing, no matter how hard it gets. Remember what Jesus has done for us and what a blessing it is to have been called to do his work. God our Father loves you, and He will bless your work.

Love, Paul.