

# 2 Corinthians 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

## Analysis

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**And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled** (καὶ ἐν ἐτοίμῳ ἔχοντες ἐκδικῆσαι πᾶσαν παρακοήν, ὅταν πληρωθῇ ὑμῶν ἡ ὑπακοή)—*Ekdikēsai* (ἐκδικῆσαι, "to avenge/punish") denotes judicial retribution, not personal revenge. Paul stands ready to exercise apostolic discipline against false teachers, but only after the congregation demonstrates obedience. *Parakoen* (παρακοήν, "disobedience") is the opposite of *hypakoē* (v. 5)—willful rebellion against apostolic authority.

This verse reveals Paul's pastoral wisdom: he delays confronting false teachers until the congregation's loyalty is secured. Once the Corinthians submit to apostolic authority, Paul will address the infiltrators. The sequence matters—establish corporate obedience before exercising corrective discipline. Paul's authority is for edification (v. 8), not personal vindication.

## Historical Context

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Apostolic authority included power to discipline (1 Cor 5:3-5, Acts 5:1-11, 13:11). Paul's delay in exercising this authority wasn't weakness but strategic pastoral care—winning the congregation's allegiance before confronting opponents. This reflects Christ's patient forbearance, delaying judgment until repentance is offered (2 Peter 3:9).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's readiness to discipline—only after corporate obedience is established—model wise pastoral leadership versus authoritarian control?
2. When is patience with disobedience pastoral forbearance, and when does it become dereliction of shepherding duty?
3. What does this verse teach about the relationship between corporate obedience and leadership's responsibility to confront false teaching?

## Interlinear Text

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|            |           |                    |               |                   |            |                     |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|
| καὶ        | ἐν        | ἐτοίμῳ             | ἔχοντες       | ἐκδικῆσαι         | πάντας     | παρακοήν            |
| <b>And</b> | <b>in</b> | <b>a readiness</b> | <b>having</b> | <b>to revenge</b> | <b>all</b> | <b>disobedience</b> |
| G2532      | G1722     | G2092              | G2192         | G1556             | G3956      | G3876               |

|             |                     |             |              |                  |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| ὅταν        | πληρωθῇ             | ὑμῶν        | ἡ            | ὑπακοή           |
| <b>when</b> | <b>is fulfilled</b> | <b>your</b> | <b>G3588</b> | <b>obedience</b> |
| G3752       | G4137               | G5216       |              | G5218            |

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 2:9** (Parallel theme): For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

**2 Corinthians 7:15** (Parallel theme): And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

**2 Corinthians 13:2** (Parallel theme): I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

**2 Corinthians 13:10** (Parallel theme): Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

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