

# 2 Corinthians 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

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**I told you before, and foretell you**—Paul employs the Greek *proeirēka* (προεῖρηκα, "I have said beforehand") and *prolegō* (προλέγω, "I say beforehand"), legal terminology of formal warning. His phrase **if I come again, I will not spare** uses *ou pheisomai* (οὐ φείσομαι), the same verb describing God not sparing His own Son (Romans 8:32)—indicating severe apostolic discipline awaits unrepentant sinners.

Paul's posture combines pastoral concern with judicial authority: **being absent now I write** rather than wielding discipline immediately, providing opportunity for repentance. The distinction between **them which heretofore have sinned** (persistent offenders) and **all other** (the broader church) shows Paul's precision in applying discipline—targeting specific sins while warning the whole congregation.

## Historical Context

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The "painful visit" (2 Cor 2:1) involved public confrontation that Paul regretted but deemed necessary. Now, writing from Macedonia before his third visit, Paul gives final warning. Ancient letters of recommendation and authority (like Paul's epistles) carried legal weight, making this written warning a formal indictment requiring response before his arrival.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Paul warn in writing rather than simply arriving and exercising discipline?
2. How does God's pattern of warning before judgment (throughout Scripture) inform church discipline today?
3. What is the relationship between pastoral patience and the reality that discipline 'will not spare'?

## Interlinear Text

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προείρηκα	καὶ	προλέγω	ὥς	παρὼν	τὸ	δεύτερον			
I told you before	and	foretell you	as if	I were present	G3588	the second			
G4280	G2532	G4302	G5613	G3918		G1208			
καὶ	ἀπὼν	νῦν	γράφω	τοῖς	προημαρτηκόσιν				
and	being absent	now	I write	G3588	to them which heretofore have sinned				
G2532	G548	G3568	G1125		G4258				
καὶ	τοῖς	λοιποῖς	πᾶσιν	ὅτι	ἐὰν	ἔλθω	εἰς	τὸ	πάλιν
and	G3588	other	to all	that	if	I come	again	G3588	G3825
G2532		G3062	G3956	G3754	G1437	G2064	G1519		
οὐ	φείσομαι								
not	I will								
G3756	G5339								

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 1:23** (Parallel theme): Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.

**1 Corinthians 5:5** (Parallel theme): To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

**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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