

# 2 Corinthians 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

## Analysis

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**I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow**—The phrase *touto auto* (τοῦτο αὐτό, "this very thing") likely refers to the "severe letter" mentioned in 2 Corinthians 7:8, now lost. Paul's purpose was preventative: writing allowed the Corinthians to address issues before his arrival, sparing both parties another painful confrontation.

**Having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all**—The term *pepoithōs* (πεποιθώς, "having confidence") expresses Paul's trust in their response. Despite previous disappointments, he believes in their fundamental solidarity with him. The repeated "all" (*pantōn, πάντων*) emphasizes congregational unity—Paul's joy and theirs are not separate but shared. This mutual joy is rooted in their common participation in Christ, not merely personal affection.

## Historical Context

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Letter-writing in antiquity often substituted for personal presence. Paul's "severe letter" (now lost) was carried by Titus and achieved its purpose of prompting repentance. The anxiety Paul felt awaiting Titus's return (2 Cor 7:5-7) shows the high stakes of ancient correspondence.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

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

## Study Questions

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1. When is written communication more effective than face-to-face confrontation?
2. How does Paul's confidence in the Corinthians model faith in God's work in others?
3. What does shared joy in a congregation reveal about its spiritual health?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν τοῦτο αὐτὸ ἵνα μὴ ἐλθὼν λύπην  
**And** **I wrote** **unto you** **this** **same** <sup>G2443</sup> <sup>G3361</sup> **when I came** **sorrow**  
<sup>G2532</sup> <sup>G1125</sup> <sup>G5213</sup> <sup>G5124</sup> <sup>G846</sup> <sup>G2064</sup> <sup>G3077</sup>

ἔχω ἀφ' ὧν ἔδει με χαίρειν πεποιθὼς  
**I should have** **from** **them of whom** **ought** **I** **to rejoice** **having confidence**  
<sup>G2192</sup> <sup>G575</sup> <sup>G3739</sup> <sup>G1163</sup> <sup>G3165</sup> <sup>G5463</sup> <sup>G3982</sup>

ἐπὶ πάντων ὑμᾶς ὅτι ἡ ἐμὴ χαρὰ πάντων ὑμῶν  
**in** **all** **you** **that** <sup>G3588</sup> **my** **joy** **all** **the joy of you**  
<sup>G1909</sup> <sup>G3956</sup> <sup>G5209</sup> <sup>G3754</sup> <sup>G1699</sup> <sup>G5479</sup> <sup>G3956</sup> <sup>G5216</sup>

ἐστίν  
**is**  
<sup>G2076</sup>

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 5:10** (Parallel theme): I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

**2 Corinthians 8:22** (Parallel theme): And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

**Philemon 1:21** (Parallel theme): Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

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