

## Exegesis Summary of II Corinthians 6:14-18

### Background

v. 1:1

Paul was writing to the region of Achaia. We read about his first ministry to this region in Acts 18:1-17, where we see that the Jews accused Paul of “persuading people to worship God contrary to the Law.”

vv. 1:15; 4:11; 5:16; 10:2

Paul seems to have been badmouthed by some in Corinth who claim to be 'superapostles', and who appeal to outward appearance and glory, but Paul appeals to the sufferings of Christ! Paul is answering these accusers and trying to win back the favor of his flock. Paul has repeatedly commended his hearers to an inward purpose for the eternal glory, over a fleshly desire for present day glory.

As Christianity grew and many Jews came to know the Lord, there was a large debate about how much of the OT Law should be observed. These supposed Christians were called Judaisers because they tried to tie salvation into faith plus works of the OT Law. His accusers are possibly Judaisers and have accused Paul of being weighty in letter, but weak in person (cf 10:10).

vv. 2:4; 7:8

Paul had written previously to this region chastising them for putting up with carnality in the church. Paul defends his heart and restates that his purpose is for the wellbeing of his audience.

### Main Passage

v. 14

Paul calls his hearers to stop being unequally yoked with unbelievers. Here in context it seems Paul is claiming his accusers are unbelievers, lawless, and full of darkness; indeed later, Paul asserts that his accusers are ministers of Satan (cf. 11:12).

v. 15

Paul continues to contrast the true Christ against false evil, it would seem, opposing his accusers.

v. 16

Paul claims authenticity over his accuser's false teaching, then proceeds to quote Lev. 26:1-12, where God encourages Israel to not serve false idols, but the Living God, and reminds them that God has **broken their yoke** of slavery. This is likely a direct attack on the Judaiser's mandate of outward religion.

v. 17 & 18

Paul again encourages his hearers with another quote from the OT where Isaiah (52:1-12) encourages Israel to loose the bonds from their neck and remember the deliverance of their God from slavery.