

# “The Best Defense”

# II Corinthians 12:11-21

**“We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ”**

12 <sup>11</sup> I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing. <sup>12</sup> I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. <sup>13</sup> How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong! <sup>14</sup> Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. <sup>15</sup> So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? <sup>16</sup> Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery! <sup>17</sup> Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you? <sup>18</sup> I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit? <sup>19</sup> Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. <sup>20</sup> For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. <sup>21</sup> I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

The \_\_\_\_\_ offense. (from clues in the passage)

**Accusing Paul of:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Attacking \_\_\_\_\_ to advance \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ offense.

Defending \_\_\_\_\_ to advance \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ defense.

Endorsing \_\_\_\_\_ to advance \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ is the best \_\_\_\_\_!

The \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of who’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**When I can stand before the Lord with a clear conscience, the fruit of the Spirit will overcome my selfish nature and I can rest in His defense!**