

The Chiasm of 2 Corinthians 6:4b-13

A chiasm is a literary structure where vocabulary of the first section of a passage is repeated in reverse order in the second. The center of the chiasm is typically the climax of the passage. In 2 Corinthians 6:4b-13 the center is "O Corinthians" (2 Cor 6:11b).

A 1 **in** (Greek: *en*) much endurance, **in** (Greek: *en*) afflictions, **in** hardships, **in** (Greek: *en*) distresses, **in** (Greek: *en*) beatings, **in** (Greek: *en*) imprisonments, **in** (Greek: *en*) tumults, **in** (Greek: *en*) labors, **in** (Greek: *en*) sleeplessness, **in** (Greek: *en*) hunger, **in** (Greek: *en*) purity, **in** (Greek: *en*) knowledge, **in** (Greek: *en*) patience, **in** (Greek: *en*) kindness, **in** (Greek: *en*) the Holy Spirit, **in** (Greek: *en*) genuine love, **in** (Greek: *en*) the word of truth, **in** (Greek: *en*) the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, (6:4b-7)

2 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded **as** deceivers and yet true; **as** unknown yet well-known, **as** dying yet behold, we live; **as** punished yet not put to death, **as** sorrowful **yet** (Greek: *de*) always rejoicing, **as** poor **yet** (Greek: *de*) making many rich, **as** having nothing yet possessing all things. (6:8-10)

B **Our** mouth has spoken freely to you, (6:11a)

C , (6:11b)

B' **our** heart is opened wide. (6:11c)

A' 1 You are not restrained **by** (Greek: *en*) us, but you are restrained **in** (Greek: *en*) your own affections. (6:12)

2 **Now** (Greek: *de*) in a like exchange-- I speak **as** to children-- open wide to us also. (8:13)