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Paul Reflects on His Ministry

2:14 to 7:4



Buckle your seat belt, hold on to your hat, and get ready for a radical right turn. **Paul** makes such a dramatic shift in **his** content that it's almost as if we're pulling some serious "G's" as we move from **Paul's** lament over the situation in **Corinth** to **his** praise to **ADONAI** for the privileges of being **His** servant.⁸³ Here we step into the very heart of the letter. Indeed, this section grounds the whole of **Second Corinthians**, giving it its theological center of gravity.⁸⁴ **His** outpouring of thanks to **God** may anticipate **his** joy over the happy result from "the severe letter" and **Titus'** visit (**to see link click [Bl](#) - The Effects of the Severe Letter**), but **Paul** specifically gives thanks for all that **YHVH** had done in **his** ministry. **He** thanks **the LORD** because **His** designs are wiser and more powerful than the **Adversary's** and because, in spite of setbacks here-and-there, the knowledge of **the Eternal One** spreads everywhere through the apostolic preaching like **a sweet-smelling aroma**. The preaching generates different responses - both rejection which leads to death and acceptance which leads to life. The life-and-death impact of **Paul's** apostolic ministry causes **him** to reflect, and ask who is adequate to shoulder the responsibility for proclaiming such a potent Word from **the Most Holy One**.⁸⁵