apposition: the Spirit *is* the token. The  
word in the original means the first deposit of purchase-money by which a bargain was ratified.

**23.]** *His reason  
for not coming to them.*

**upon**  
[i.e. against] **my soul**,—with that testimony against me if I fail in the truth.

**to spare you,** i.e. out of a feeling  
of compassion for you.

**I forebore  
coming ]** literally, “*I no longer came*,” viz.  
after the first time: see Introd. to 1 Cor.  
§v.6. The following verse seems to be added  
to remove any false inference which might  
have been drawn from the word “*spare*”  
as seeming to assert an unreasonable degree of power over them. But why **over  
your faith?** He *had power* over them,  
but it was in matters of *discipline, not of  
faith:* over matters of faith not even an  
Apostle has power, seeing it is in *each  
man’s faith* that he *stands before God.*And he puts this strongly, that in matters  
of faith he is only a fellow-helper of their  
joy (the “*joy in believing,*” Rom. xv. 18),  
in order to shew them the *real department* of his apostolic power, and that, however exercised, it would not attempt to  
rule their faith, but only to secure to them,  
by purifying them, joy in believing. He  
proceeds to say, that it was the probable  
disturbance of this joy, which induced him  
to forego his visit.

**CHAP. II. 1—4.]** FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE REASON OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF HIS VISIT.

**1.] this** refers to what follows: see reff.

**not come again to you in sorrow]** This is the  
only fair rendering of the words; implying, that *some former visit had been in  
grief.* Clearly the first visit, Acts xviii.  
1 ff., could not be thus described: we  
must therefore infer, that an *intermediate  
unrecorded visit* had been paid by him.  
On this subject, compare ch. xii. 14;  
xiii. 1 and notes: and see Introd. to 1 Cor.  
§ v.

**in sorrow** is explained in vv.  
2,3 to mean **in mutual grief.** ‘I grieving  
you (ver. 2), and you grieving me’ (ver. 3): not St. Paul’s grief alone, nor grief alone  
inflicted on them by St. Paul.

**2. For]**Reason why I would not come to you in  
grief: because I should have to grieve those  
who formed my proper material for thankfulness and joy.

**I** has a peculiar emphasis: ‘If *I* cause you grief’. . . implying, ‘there are who cause you sufficient.’

**3.]** I put in writing this same  
thing, viz. the **thing** which I “ *determined*,” ver, 1: the announcement of my  
change of purpose in 1 Cor. xvi. 7, which  
had occasioned the charge of fickleness  
against him. See other supposed meanings