

## 2 Corinthians, Study 4

### The Work of an Ambassador

Wikipedia notes the following regarding modern ambassadors:

*“An ambassador is the highest ranking diplomat who represents a nation and is usually accredited to a foreign sovereign or government. A diplomat is a person appointed by a state to conduct diplomacy with another state. The main functions of diplomats revolve around the representation and protection of the interests and nationals of the sending state, as well as the promotion of information and friendly relations.”*

By contrast John Barclay in his Bible commentary notes:

*‘When the Roman senate decided that a country should become a province they sent to it ten ... presbeutai (the Greek word Paul uses for ambassador) ... of their own number, who, along with the victorious general, arranged the terms of peace with the vanquished people, determined the boundaries of the new province, and drew up a constitution for its administration .... They were the men who were responsible for bringing men into the family of the Roman Empire. So Paul thinks of himself as the man who brings to men the offer and the conditions of God, whereby men can become citizens of the empire of God and members of His family.’*

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