

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

June 8, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

*The Last Letter (Second Corinthians)*

Chapter Two – *Comfort from Restoration*

Text – 2 Corinthians 2

### Introduction

Paul continues the theme of comfort in chapter two. Paul reveals his own comfort that came as a result of the good news received from Corinth. He also admonishes the Corinthians to be a source of comfort to those who were sorrowing; particularly to the man who seems to have been at least partly responsible for the troubles in Corinth. Paul reminds them (and us) that Satan gets an advantage over us when we refuse to restore those who have repented.

#### I. The Switch from a Visit to a Letter (vs. 1 – 4)

A. The Original plan was to visit (1:15 & 16)

B. The Option was to write a letter. (vs. 3 & 4)

1. He did not want to go to Corinth “in heaviness”. (v. 1)

2. He did not want to be brought down personally. (v. 2)

3. He “spared” them by not going personally. (1:23)

4. He was not changing plans because of the flesh (1:17)

5. Paul recognized that his letters were more effective than he was in person.

(2 Corinthians 10:1 & 2; 8 – 10)

Note: Sometimes God will change our plans. We need to submit ourselves with the sovereignty of God. He can do what He pleases; and we need to be OK with that. (1 Corinthians 4:19)

*For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.* (James 4:15)

#### II. The Sufficiency of Godly Sorrow (vs. 5 – 10)

Paul will expand on this subject later in chapter seven. (See 1 Corinthians 7: 1 – 10)

A. Paul was affected partially by the sin of some in the Corinthian church; and so were all the people in Corinth.

B. The people in Corinth were all affected by the correction caused by a few.

- C. The man referenced in verse 6 seems to have received an appropriate punishment and was repentant. We do not know for sure who this man was; but it may have been the brother caught in an incestuous relationship in 1 Corinthians. (1 Corinthians 5:1 – 7)
- D. Since the man was repentant, the church was admonished to forgive him, and confirm their love toward him. (Matthew 18:15 – 35)

Note: This does not mean necessarily that the offended brother will be restored completely to full privileges right away. He may be on probation for a while. A truly repentant brother or sister does not come demanding their rights. The prodigal came back expecting to be a servant, not a son.

### III. The Satanic Attack (vs. 11 – 13)

- A. Satan uses broken relationships to affect our relationship with God. (Matthew 5: 23 – 24; Hebrews 12:15)

*"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."* (Matthew 5:23-24)

*"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;"* (Hebrews 12:15)

*Bitterness is a poison that destroys its own container*

- B. Paul's problems with Corinth hindered his ability to minister to others (vs. 12 – 13)

### IV. The Saviour (vs. 14 – 17)

Now because of the solving of the problems in Corinth "the savour of his knowledge" is going out again in every place.

- A. To God we are a sweet fragrance.
- B. To the saved we are the sweet smell of life.
- C. To the lost we are the stink of death.

Paul states in verse 17 that he preached the Word of God: "as of sincerity", "as of God", "in the sight of God" and "in Christ". The Word needs to go out unhindered from such men. I hope it would never be said of us that we were a hindrance to the delivery of the Word.