

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 2

Lesson 3

Hurting those he loved was definitely not Paul's goal. Rather, he desired joy for them. Paul's concern was that his precious letter had brought sorrow rather than joy to the believers in Corinth. Correcting or disciplining others should always be for the purpose of helping them, not punishing. It should be with the goal of seeing that they are sorry but not to make them sorrowful. True "sorrow" brings joy. And thus, was Paul's intention for those he ministered to in Corinth.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Corinthians 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Chapter 2 of 2 Corinthians has been divided into three paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-2

Verses 3-11

Verses 12-17

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for the second chapter of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, any personal pronouns that refer to Paul (such as I, myself or we), love and forgive/forgiven.

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 2. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Only two verses in chapter 2 contain the word *love*. Yet, this key word reveals the heart behind Paul's intentions. Record what these verses tell us about Paul's intentions.

DAY TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 2:1-2

1. In chapter 2, Paul continued to explain his reasoning for not coming to see the believers in Corinth. He began with the words *But, I determined this within myself*. The New Living Translation puts it this way: *So, I said to myself, "No, I won't do it"*. What did Paul *determine* not to do?

a. Paul refers to his struggles in writing to them and in not coming to see them throughout this letter. Look up the following verses and summarize what he was saying:

2 Corinthians 2:4

2 Corinthians 7:8

2 Corinthians 12:20,21

2 Corinthians 13:10

1.) What does this say to you about Paul's attitude toward disciplining those he has authority over?

2.) What can we learn from his example?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 2:3. Although Paul had rebuked the Corinthians, although he called them *carnal*, although his writing to them reflected much frustration, he did not want to bring them sorrow. What did he desire for them?

a. How does rightly responding to godly discipline bring *joy*?

b. Describe the *joy* that obedience brings.

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 2:3-8

1. Paul wrote his previous letter to the believers in Corinth having the hope that they would receive his correction so that when he did come to see them, he would not be saddened by their carnal behavior. The behavior of one believer, not only affects those who shepherd her, but it also affects other believers. What does 1 Corinthians 12:26 say about this?
 - a. In what way do you think the believers at Corinth could bring *joy* to Paul?
 - 1.) This *joy* desired by Paul, is valued by all sincere shepherds. What did John write in 3 John 1:4?
 - 2.) Why do you think it is important for overseers to let those they oversee know they are proud of them?
2. *How painful it was to write that letter! Heartbroken, I cried over it. I didn't want to hurt you, but I wanted you to know how very much I love you. I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt your entire church more than he hurt me* (2 Corinthians 2:4,5 NLT). It is believed that Paul was referring to the man who was sleeping with his father's wife. See 1 Corinthians 5. Why might someone in the church who is living in sin, *hurt the entire church*?
3. Apparently, the church obeyed Paul by applying the discipline directed. Record the discipline called for in 1 Corinthians 5:5, 11-13.
 - a. What did Paul say about the *punishment* which the *majority* of them had *inflicted*? See 2 Corinthians 2:6.
 - 1.) Define the word *sufficient*.
4. According to verse 7, what might be the consequence of too much church discipline or *punishment*?
 - a. *On the contrary*, what were they to do? verses 7 and 8.
 - 1.) How might the members of a church *comfort* and *reaffirm their love* to someone who has repented from a sinful lifestyle?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 2:9-11

1. 2 Corinthians 2:9 reveals another reason for Paul's letter to the believers in Corinth. What was it?
 - a. Complete the last part of this verse by filling in the blank. ...*whether you are obedient in _____ things.*
 - 1.) Why is this little three letter word so important when it comes to *obedience*?
2. Again, in verse 10, Paul tells the believers to *forgive* the man? Since God has forgiven him, why is it so important that others *forgive* him?
 - a. Practically, what do you think Paul was asking them to do, when he told them to *forgive* the man?
3. What consequence of unforgiveness did Paul warn them about in verse 11?
 - a. How might satan have *taken advantage* of them?
 - 1.) What does 1 Peter 5:8 say about this?
4. Record the last eight words of 2 Corinthians 2:11.
 - a. What are some of satan's *devices*? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
 - b. What can we do so that we will not be *ignorant of his devices*?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

1. Paul had apparently made plans to meet Titus in *Troas*. Paul was eagerly waiting to learn of the response of the believers in Corinth. While in Troas, *a door was opened to me by the Lord*. Exciting as that must have been, what did Paul write in verse 13?
 - a. Why did Paul have *no rest in his spirit*?

- b. Not knowing all the facts, we might, as the Corinthians, be quick to judge Paul. What kind of thoughts might a person have about Paul's choice to leave Troas?
 - c. What are some things that we do not know about Paul's decision to leave?
2. How might the fact that *Titus* was deterred, be a *device* of the enemy or something satan could *take advantage of*?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 2:14 and record what two things Paul was *thankful* for.
 - a. Describe the *fragrance* of knowing Christ.
 - 1.) How is a believer who spreads the gospel like a bottle of perfume?
4. According to verse 15, we are the *fragrance of Christ* to both the *saved* and the *perishing*. What is the difference in the *aroma*? verse 16
 - a. What is the difference as described in 1 Corinthians 1:18?
 - b. What did the gospel mean to you before you were saved?
5. Paul returns to his defense in 2 Corinthians 2:17. Record what he wrote in your own words.
 - a. Contrast someone who is in ministry for the money and glory with someone who is *sincere* and aware that they *speak in the sight of God in Christ*.

DAY SIX: Review 2 Corinthians 2

1. Paul's goal in correcting the believers in Corinth was that they respond in *joy* rather than *sorrow*. Why do you think this was so important to him?

2. Why do you think many believers shy away from the discipline required in 1 Corinthians 5?
 - a. When is this kind of discipline necessary?

 - b. How should it be applied?

 - c. What are we to do with a *repentant* believer?

3. In what ways does knowing that Paul *had no rest in his spirit* because he had not yet heard from Titus, help you to relate to him?

4. How does knowing Paul continued in his calling, despite his lack of *rest*, encourage you?

5. From what you have learned in this chapter, describe Paul.

*You know that I have not hesitated
to preach anything that would be helpful to you
but have taught you publicly and from house to house.*

-Acts 20:20 NIV