

## 2 Corinthians 2

**2 Corinthians 2.1-4** – Further explaining his delay in coming

**V1** – Two possible references to previous "sorrow":

1. A reference to an intermediate visit between *1-2 Corinthians* (in other words, things were in an awful state)
  2. A reference to *1 Corinthians* – the same as coming to them
- We have no record of an intermediate visit by Paul to Corinth

**V2** – **Who should have cheered up Paul?** His fellow Christians at Corinth (if they had responded to his sorrow by obedience to his letter)

**V3** – A reference to *2 Cor. 1.23-24* – He didn't return because he wanted to give things time to cool off

-He was hoping that they had worked through their problems (that would have given him great joy)

**V4** – **What was Paul's mental and emotional state as he wrote *1 Corinthians*?** Affliction, anguish, many tears

**-Is this apparent as we read *1 Corinthians*?** Not too much

-We don't think of Paul as weeping over the manuscript that he was going to send to the church at Corinth

**-Why was Paul so torn up in writing *1 Corinthians*?** He had established the church in that location

**-For those who have physically baptized someone, how does it feel to later see that person fall away from the faith and return to the world?** Just awful – the same with Paul

**-According to *v 4*, if we love someone, what will we do?** Tell them the truth

-That is what Paul had done in *1 Corinthians* – he had told them the truth

## 1 Corinthians 2.5-11

**-Remember the details of the man in *1 Cor. 5*?** A man in the church was having a sexual affair with his step-mother

-At Paul's instructions, the church withdrew fellowship from the man

**V5** – **Had the man of *1 Cor. 5* caused sorrow to the Corinthians?** Yes

-But Paul didn't want to exaggerate the damage; the man had not wrecked the church

**V6** – **What was the punishment?** Disfellowshipping

**-What indicates that they had taken a vote?** "the majority" (NASB, NIV, RSV, English-Greek Interlinear)

-ASV: "the more" (as opposed to "the less")

-It appears that in the absence of elders (who are never mentioned in *1 Cor.*), the congregation took a vote

**-What was the purpose of the action?** To save the man's soul (not just to make him feel bad or commit suicide)

**V 7 – Had the man repented?** Yes (including getting out of the relationship with his step-mother)

**V 8 – Paul's instructions?** To keep the opposite effect from happening (driving the man away from the church and into a state of despair)

**V 9** – It appears that Paul had written *1 Cor. 5* to see if the Corinthians were obedient to the will of God

**V 10** – Paul was the leader of the action against the man  
-Paul forgave him; therefore, the Corinthians should also have forgiven him

**V 11** – Satan was defeated in the case of this man – a brother had been brought back into the church  
-Conclusion: From the words of Paul in these verses, the Corinthians were having a hard time forgiving the man (they went from one extreme to the other), so Paul had to command them to take the man back (based on his repentance)

**2 Corinthians 2.12-17** – Paul reemphasizes his love for the Corinthians

**V 12** – Where had Paul gone after *1 Corinthians*? Troas  
-What had he found there? Receptive people

**V 13** – What kept him from staying at Troas? Titus was not there, and no news from Corinth  
-Where to next? Macedonia (probably to Philippi)

**V 14** – Example of how one thought leads on to another  
-Paul is not so concerned with order in *2 Corinthians* as he was in *1 Corinthians*  
-He is overwhelmed with gratitude to God  
-Paul sees that God is helping things work out for good at Corinth  
-Paul is making a reference to when the emperor returns from a conquest; there are palms in the street, incense burning, sweet smells, and behind the victorious army came the captives (for slavery or death)

**V 15** – Everywhere Paul and others went, they spread the gospel

**V 16** – "death to death" – Those who reject the gospel are in that situation  
-This is a very powerful statement about life with Christ  
-For the evil people, there is "death" in this life, and "death" in the life to come  
-Following Satan never results in anything good

**V 17** - Possible reference to the false teachers at Corinth  
-Paul was sincere and only acted from good motives  
-Paul said that we should never "peddle" the Word of God  
-In other words, we should keep our business out of the assembly and not use our position in

the church as a way to sale products (from Girl Scout cookies to insurance to siding for the house to candy bars for the band, etc.).

-For the writer of these class notes, the greatest elder that he ever knew was an insurance salesman, but you had to ask him what he did for a living (because he never brought the subject up). Then if you were interested, you had to ask him to make a visit to your house and explain the insurance policies that he had available. He never, ever took advantage of his position in the Lord's church to advance his business.

He was truly a great elder, and all Christians in northwest Illinois know the one being referred to here

-He was a great example of what Paul was talking about in *2 Cor. 2.17!*

Revised 2013-01-22