

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH" PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



The Second Corinthian Letter Chapter 2

We don't have his actual second letter in the New Testament, but according to 2 Cor. 2:3,4 it was severe. Paul is now writing a third letter to the Corinthian church, and has thus far been offering explanations for his sufferings and for delaying a scheduled visit to Corinth. His deliberate decision to not come to Corinth has prompted some to unfairly accuse him of being wishy-washy in his personal behavior, and by extension, in his preaching. Paul has begun to defend himself, but starting in 1:23 gives us the reason for changing his schedule — to spare the church any unnecessary grief.

¹ But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again. ² For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful? ³ This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

IN THE CORINTHIANS' BEST INTEREST...

- ☀ Paul, as he continues his explanation for not coming earlier, says now that he has not come _____ sake.
- ☀ Looking ahead for context (2 Cor. 2:5-7 / 7:12), what difficult action had been necessary for the church to take?
- ☀ What does this tell us about Paul's attitude about discipline?
- ☀ What similar action do we read about in 1 Corinthians 5?
- ☀ Are these the same situations? Consider:
 - ☀ Who was the offended party in 1 Cor. 5?
 - ☀ Who appears to be the offended party in 2:5,10 / 7:12?
 - ☀ What appears to have taken place?
- ☀ How could discipline produce joy?
- ☀ What is the intention of discipline?

⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree — in order not to say too much — to all of you.

⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰ But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that no

☀ Why would an insult toward Paul have been a problem?

☀ He was _____

☀ He was the original _____ / _____ in Corinth

☀ And the Scripture teaches (summarize)...

☀ Acts 23:5 — _____

☀ Exodus 22:28 — _____

☀ 1 Timothy 5:17-25 — _____

☀ 1 Peter 5:5 — _____

☀ Heb 13:17 — _____

☀ In verse 5 Paul says that he was caused sorrow (offended) but he also says that it also would be sorrow to all of them. How so?

☀ What is the punishment inflicted by the majority?

☀ The word for “majority” in Greek is “polus” (πολυς) and means “great” or “many”. Why didn’t everyone participate?

☀ What should all faithful Christians do under these circumstances?

☀ Now that the offender had repented, what was the church to do?

☀ _____ (what’s this?)

☀ _____ (what’s this?)

☀ _____ your _____
(what’s this?)

☀ What other important reason did Paul have for insisting on withdrawal of fellowship from the Corinthians against the offender?

advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- ☀ Did they pass the test?
- ☀ What composes a test — whether from a leader or from God? (a hard choice)
- ☀ What might have been Satan's scheme (v. 11) in this case?
 - ☀ So how important was repentance and forgiveness in this situation?
 - ☀ What does this teach us today in both personal relationships between brethren and regarding church issues.

¹² Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

THE ANXIETY OF NOT FINDING TITUS

- ☀ Titus was the apparent _____ of the severe letter (2 Cor. 7:6,7)
- ☀ Paul was _____ to hear the result of the delivery of the letter and Titus' efforts at calming the Corinthian storm.
- ☀ So, when Paul didn't find Titus in Troas, as planned, he became even more anxious, not even taking advantage of an _____ in Troas.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵ For we are a fragrance of Christ to God

BEING LED IN TRIUMPH

- ☀ What is a "triumph"?
- ☀ A victorious _____ privilege.
- ☀ Important defeated _____ went first (kings, generals, families)
- ☀ At the end of the parade and, occasionally, in the midst of the parade some of these were _____.
- ☀ Next came the _____ and _____

among those who are being saved and

among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to

the one an aroma from death to death,

to the other an aroma from life to life.

And who is adequate for these things? ¹⁷

For we are not like many, peddling the

word of God, but as from sincerity, but

as from God, we speak in Christ in the

sight of God.

☼ Next came Roman _____.

☼ Next came the _____ in a chariot drawn by 4 horses

☼ Followed by the general's conquering _____

☼ What is the meaning of the metaphor?

☼ The Greek word "thriambeuo" (θριαμβευω) means to be _____ in a triumph, not to be _____ by a triumph.

☼ This is an ironic use of the metaphor in which Paul is

☼ captured by _____,

☼ paraded before the _____,

☼ exuding the _____ of Christ

☼ an aroma of death to the _____

☼ an aroma of life to the _____

☼ What does Paul mean by asking the question, "Who adequate for these things?"

☼ What does Paul mean that some were peddling the word of God?

☼ What had Paul done instead?

☼ Who does He call as witness?