

## **2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 2 – Sparing the Church; Forgive the Offender; Triumph in Christ**

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### **2 CORINTHIANS, Chapter 2 –**

Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, in a way was harsh because Paul had to deal with many problems that existed in the church in Corinth. There were problems of immorality, problems of division. The church was divided. There was divided loyalty, divided in doctrinal positions. The church was being torn apart. The church was abusing the Lord’s Supper. It had become sort of party time. There was a lack of reverence. There was an abuse of the use of the gifts of the Spirit within the church. There was false teaching concerning the resurrection. So his first letter was corrective in nature. And there was that tone of harshness to it. So Paul isn’t certain how they received the letter. He’s waiting for Titus. He is anxious because Titus is going to bring him news of the response of the people to Paul’s letter. So as he writes to them, actually he left Ephesus under duress. There were riots and his life was being threatened. So he went over to Troas. The door was open. He was ministering there, but Paul as he will tell us in a minute, was **troubled in his spirit because he was anxious to find out how the letter was received by the Corinthians**. With this troubled heart, though God was moving in Troas, he felt restless. He headed over to Macedonia, to Philippi. It was there in Philippi that he caught up with Titus. He received from Titus the word of the reception of his letter. **Thus he sent off this second letter from Philippi because he was planning to come down to the church there in Corinth. His plans had been altered because of the riot in Ephesus. It was now later than when he was originally planning to come.** Because Paul didn’t come **there were those in Corinth, who were agitating. They were saying, well you know, his word can’t be trusted. He’ll say yes, but he doesn’t really mean yes and all.** So Paul is writing this second letter to explain why he hadn’t come already and his intentions of yet coming.

### **THE THREE “R”S = RECOGNIZE, RESIST AND REJOICE!**

**V. -11 – 2Co 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices**

One of Satan’s devices is set up a spiritual battle and lure us into fighting a physical battle – responding in anger, shouting and swinging away. We need to remember three “R’s” – **Recognize the attack** of the enemy as a spiritual issue! It’s a spiritual battle, then I can use the spiritual weapons that God has made available. (*Eph 6:11-18*). Secondly, **resist the devil!** The Bible tells us (*James 4:7*) if we resist the devil, he will flee from us! Standup, in the name of Jesus and in the protection of Jesus! Through the name and the power of Jesus, standup to the attack. Keep the Lord between you and the enemy. Resist him! The third “R” is **rejoice!** Jesus has defeated him. You just rejoice in that he has to flee!. Satan is the master deceiver. But yet the weakest child of God can cause him to tremble when they get on their knees because he’s got to submit to the authority of Jesus, who has given us that authority and power to stand against him!

### **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**OFF SEPT. 25-26**

**OFF OCT. 2-3**

**OFF OCT. 9-10**

**OFF OCT. 16-17**

**BACK ON – OCT. 23-24!!!**

**I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY –**  
**Hankey/Fischer (Joslin Grove Choral)**

*1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do*

**CHORUS:** *I love to tell the story 'Twill be my  
theme in glory. To tell the old, old story Of  
Jesus and His love*

*2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more  
wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for  
some have never heard the message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word. CHORUS*

*3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it  
best Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it  
like the rest And when, in scenes of glory, I sing  
the new, new song 'Twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. CHORUS*



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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

### 2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 2 – Sparing the Church;

*2Co 2:1 But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow.*

*2Co 2:2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?*

### Forgive the Offender;

*2Co 2:3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all.*

*2Co 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.*

*2Co 2:5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe.*

*2Co 2:6 This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, 2Co 2:7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.*

*2Co 2:8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.*

*2Co 2:9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.*

1– There was sorrow or heaviness in his letter, dealing with difficult issues in the church. It was rebuke. Paul determined, not to come again to you in sorrow. I don’t want to a correcting teacher. I want things to be worked out. So I determined that I would not come again to you in sorrow.

2– My being with you, I’m looking forward to a joyful time with you. To see you, is going to make me happy, the very ones I’ve made sad because I’ve had to come down heavy on them. I don’t want that to be, so I’ve determined not to come with you with heaviness.

3– So I’m writing this to you to clear things up. I want all things to be settled so that when I come, it will just be an overall joyful experience for all of us that we can just rejoice together in the goodness of God, a good time of just rejoicing and fellowship in Jesus.

4– Paul wrote with a heart that was aching for them, a heart that was filled with anguish, a heart that was filled with love, because children were going astray and being led astray. His children that he had brought to the Lord He speaks often of the tears that he had shed over the church, the anguish in his heart.

5-6– In the first epistle, one of the great problems in the church of Corinth was the toleration of evil in their midst. A young man was living with his father’s wife. Paul in writing, concerning this situation, said kick the guy out! Don’t have fellowship with him, in order that he might realize the gravity of his sin. So the church did just what Paul had suggested. They had removed him from the fellowship, so Paul said, sufficient for such a man.

7– The time has come now. He has repented. The time has come to forgive him. The time has come to receive him back into fellowship, lest such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

8 -- In the body of Christ, there has to be a place for forgiveness, a place of restoring one into fellowship. When a person has sinned, yes, it is tragic. If they continue in sin, yes, it is necessary to separate them. But when there is the confession of sin, when there is the repentance of sin, then there has got to be a place for the restoration and the bringing of that person back into the full fellowship in the body of Christ.

9-- Part of the purpose for my writing to you to take such severe measure was to just see if you really are going to be obedient to the Lord and to the commands of the Lord.

1– Does your presence and ministering to others generally result in their being saddened or encouraged?

2– Paul is concerned about making those he loved so much, be sorrowful. Is fellowship with other believers important to you as it was to Paul?

3– How do you usually go about correcting mistakes made to others? How ready are you to go directly to others and ask them if any misunderstanding remains?

4– With respect to your ministry, is your heart in the ministry and for the people, as Paul’s was? Do you ever picture Paul as crying? Do you ever get so involved with the welfare of others that you are led to tears? Could we ever love enough to write a letter like 1 Corinthians?

5– Can you see the wisdom in kicking out of the church, a person brazenly continuing in sin. To separate them from the fellowship and to have them completely give themselves over to their sin? Like tying a dead chicken until it rots around the neck of a dog that won’t stop killing chickens?

6– Do we recognize the discernment required to determine when such an excommunicated sinner has repented, broken, and should be brought back into fellowship?

7– Can you see the two possible errors here? First, being to lax for people continuing openly in sin. And the second is to be too harsh in forgiveness when repentance and brokenness occurs?

8– We must remember the objective in correction of a person in sin is to restore such a one! Can you see the importance of the demonstrating of love and acceptance back into the body, after the person demonstrates full repentance?

9– Because corrections are indeed difficult, can you see why Paul would use this situation with the man living in incest, to test the obedience to the Lord by the Corinthians?



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***2Co 2:10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,***

***2Co 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.***

**10** – *I forgive also*: The offending man had also sinned against Paul directly or indirectly. But the Corinthians need to take the lead in showing the man forgiveness and restoration. If the church must treat one as an unbeliever, we are to treat them with love and concern, hoping to win them to Jesus, anxious for repentance. This is consistent: *if your brother sins, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. (Luke\_17:3)*

**11** – This was of special concern, because Satan is looking to take advantage of our mistakes, as a church and as individuals. *not ignorant of his devices*: Their failure to show love to the repentant man could be used as a strategy of Satan

**-10** – Paul is speaking with the authority of an apostle. Jesus had told them (*John 20:23*), *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.* An awesome authority was given to the apostles. Paul now says, ***Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,*** . So if a person comes, truly repentant and confesses that they have sinned and asks Jesus for forgiveness, then is such a situation we can tell that person that the Bible tells us their sin is forgiven. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).* In such cases, I can say I forgave in the presence or person of Christ. In the presence of Christ, Paul said, I forgave it. So we are His hands. We are His feet. We are His voice.

**-11** – One of Satan’s devices is set up a spiritual battle and lure us into fighting a physical battle – responding in anger, shouting and swinging away. We need to remember three “R’s” – **Recognize the attack** of the enemy as a spiritual issue! It’s a spiritual battle, then I can use the spiritual weapons that God has made available. (*Eph 6:11-18*). Secondly, **resist the devil!** The Bible tells us (*James 4:7*) if we resist the devil, he will flee from us! Standup, in the name of Jesus and in the protection of Jesus! Through the name and the power of Jesus, standup to the attack. Keep the Lord between you and the enemy. Resist him! The third R is **rejoice!** Jesus has defeated him. You just rejoice in that he has to flee!. Satan is the master deceiver. But yet the weakest child of God can cause him to tremble when they get on their knees because he’s got to submit to the authority of Jesus, who has given us that authority and power to stand against him!  
**Other devices – Luring a person into sin, convincing them of it’s attractiveness.** Then, once a person realizes that sin is bad, convinces the person they are a hopeless sinner, not worthy and unable to earn repentance and forgiveness.



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### **Triumph in Christ;**

***2Co 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,***

***2Co 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.***

***2Co 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.***

**12 –** After Paul had to leave Ephesus because of the riot and the attempt upon his life, he came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel. God opened up a glorious door to share the gospel there in Troas.

**13 –** Paul was unsettled because of the problems in Corinth and of that heavy letter he had to send. Titus was supposed to meet him in Troas, bringing news about Corinth. Paul departed for Macedonia, likely to Philippi, where he caught up on what was happening in Corinth.

**14 –** Paul has been dealing with criticism from the Corinthians, but more than anything, he wants them to know he is following Jesus Christ, who always leads us in triumph! It is almost as if he sees Jesus' triumph parade winding its way through the whole Roman Empire, through the entire world, diffusing fragrance like the knowledge of God, which people can smell when the triumph parade winds by.

***In 1Co 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*** Here, continual ***triumph “in” Christ!*** They are both correct. As I abide in Him, His victory becomes my victory! I am **victorious in Christ Jesus!** I am **also victorious through Christ Jesus.** As I am faced in this spiritual warfare, I come against Satan's power in the name of Jesus **and it is through the victory of Christ that I also enter in to that victory!** It is through what He has done! Through His finished work upon the cross where Satan was defeated once and for all, the defeat of Satan on the cross. **We have the victory through and we triumph always in Christ!**

***through us diffuses the fragrance*** (the savor or pleasant aroma) ***or fragrance) of His knowledge in every place.*** Every place I go, **I am able to bring this glorious fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus Christ.** What a beautiful thing that is, that our lives actually exude that glorious fragrance or savor of Jesus. When you come around true believers, there comes a presence of the Lord in you that transforms the room because of that fragrance of Christ or the knowledge of Christ. That sweetness that Christ brings!.

**-12 –** Even though Paul was run out of Ephesus and away from the open door there, the Lord miraculously provided another open door in Troas.

**-13 –** However Paul was so concerned about the well being of the Corinthians and how they had received the first letter, that he felt he had to leave the Troas open door and go to Macedonia! Can you envision the depth of his love and concern for the Corinthians?

**-14 –** **How thankful are you for the ever present leading of the Lord into triumph? What fragrance comes from being around you? Around me? How special is it?**



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**2Co 2:15** *For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*

**2Co 2:16** *To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

**2Co 2:17** *For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.*

**15- 16–** *For we (our lives) are to God the fragrance of Christ.* God looks and it’s pleasant. As He sees you in Christ and as He sees you walking in Christ, it’s to God just a sweet savor or fragrance, a beautiful aroma. *among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.* [16] *To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, For we are to God the fragrance of Christ, but to those who are perishing, we are the aroma of death leading to death.* Now we are still the pleasant fragrance of Christ even to those who are perishing, but it’s of death leading to death for them. They are being exposed to the knowledge and to the beauty of Christ from your life, but it isn’t to salvation because of their rejection. *and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.* But unto those that are saved, it is the aroma of life leading to life. *And who is sufficient for these things?* To think that I bring the fragrance of Christ to the world in which I live! Who of us are at all sufficient to be the savor of Christ to a lost world? Who am I? Who is sufficient for these things? In the next chapter (2 Cor. 3:5), Paul says, “*Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.*” Who is sufficient? **I’m not! But thank God my sufficiency is isn’t of myself. My sufficiency is from God, the all sufficient. He said I’m God the all sufficient One, El Shaddai.**

**17–** Realizing my responsibility to God, I stand before God! I’m going to answer to God one day. I want to make sure that when I stand before God and answer to God that it will be from a ministry that was completely sincere. **If your sufficiency is of God, what are you worried about? What can possibly can go wrong? How can you possibly go broke? My God shall supply all of your needs, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus our Lord. Is that true or not? If it true, then do I have to use gimmickry to solicit from man for the work of God? Is He not able to support that which He wants done? If He is guiding me to a certain thing, is He not able then to provide for the things that He is guiding us to do? I believe that He is! I thank God that He has proven Himself faithful.** That He has provided. God is faithful to His Word, to His promises and He has supplied all of our needs according to His riches in glory because we have trusted in Him. Our sufficiency is not of ourselves. Our sufficiency is of God. He is all-sufficient. We rejoice in what God has done and what God is doing.

**-15-16 –** Wonderfully, we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. The message of the gospel is a message of life to some and a message of condemnation to those who reject it (**Joh 3:17-21**). **Are you totally aware that all of our sufficiency is from God?**

**-17 –** Is there any part of your ministry that is watered down? That is being done for your personal profit? Are we sincere in representing and speaking in the sight of God in Christ?



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