**2 Corinthians 2**

*Paul refers to the sexually immoral man mentioned in his previous letter. The man had repented, and Paul instructs them to receive him back. He also writes of the triumph to be found in Christ. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Paul’s Ministry, Appeals, and Admonitions **(1:3-7:16)**
2. Suffering and Comfort **(1:3-11)**
3. Paul’s Plans and Charge of Fickleness **(1:12-2:2)**
4. Purpose for the Former Letter **(2:3-11)**
   1. Purpose for writing 1 Corinthians **(vv. 1-4).**
      1. Continued reason for changed plans: he did not wish to come in sorrow **(vv. 1-2).**
      2. Wrote the previous epistle so that **(vv. 3-4):**
         1. When he came, there would be joy, not sorrow **(v. 3).**
         2. They would know his love he had for them **(v. 4).**
   2. Reaffirmation of love to the penitent **(vv. 5-11).**
      1. Speaking of sorrow, much of that was caused by one man **(v. 5).**
      2. Punishment was meted out to that man, he became penitent, such was sufficient, and they were to receive him in love again **(vv. 6-8).**
      3. Such was a test of their obedience **(v. 9).**
      4. Paul is willing to forgive whoever they have forgiven, lest Satan should take advantage **(vv. 10-11).**
5. The Ministry of the New Covenant **(2:12-7:16)**
   1. Led in Triumph **(2:12-17)**
      1. No rest in Troas **(vv. 12-13).**
         1. Paul went to Troas to preach, and God gave him opportunity to do so **(v. 12).**
         2. Because of Titus’ absence, thus, the absence of a report on the Corinthians spiritual condition, Paul left Troas to go to Macedonia **(v. 13).**
      2. Led in triumph in Christ **(vv. 14-17).**
         1. Thanksgiving from Paul to God **(v. 14).**
            1. For leading them in triumph in Christ **(v. 14a).**
            2. For diffusing the fragrance of His knowledge everywhere **(v. 14b).**
         2. The diffusing of the fragrance **(vv. 15-16b).**
            1. The fragrance of Christ among the saved and the perishing **(v. 15).**
            2. Perishing – aroma of death to death **(v. 16a).**
            3. Saved – aroma of life to life **(v. 16b).**
         3. The sufficiency of such **(vv. 16c-17).**
            1. Who is sufficient for such an honorable role **(v. 16c)?**

Not peddlers of the word of God like some **(v. 17a).**

Rather, sincere speakers from God, in His sight, in Christ **(v. 17b).**

**Questions**

1. Considering the great amount of reproof in 1 Corinthians, what do **verses 3-4** tell us about intentions behind such seemingly harsh teaching? **(cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
2. How should the penitent be treated **(vv. 5-11)?** What does this say about the action of church discipline **(cf. 1 Corinthians 5:5)?**
3. What do **verses 14-17** tell us about the process of salvation through the preaching of the gospel? What are the two general conditions of salvation? How does this compare to what is said in **1 Corinthians 1:18ff?**
4. Should the gospel be used for monetary gain? **(v. 17)** How might one go about abusing the gospel in this way?