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**2 Corinthians 2**  
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By Dan Maines

## **2 Corinthians 2**

### **2 Corinthians 2:1-2**

But I decided this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again. For if I cause you sorrow, who then will be the one making me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?

† Paul delayed his visit to avoid causing more grief. His desire was to bring joy, not sadness.

† Leadership in Christ requires sensitivity, balancing correction

with encouragement.

## **2 Corinthians 2:3-4**

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. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not so that you would be sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

† Paul's severe letter came from deep love and anguish, not from anger.

† True correction is rooted in love, even when it causes temporary grief.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 47) recalled Paul's love and hardships, showing his sincerity toward the Corinthians.

## **2 Corinthians 2:5-7**

But if anyone has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not for me, but in some degree, in order not to say too much, for all of you. Sufficient for such a person is this punishment which was imposed by the majority, so that on the other hand, you should forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a person might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

† Discipline had its effect, but now the offender needed forgiveness and restoration.

† Discipline without restoration can crush a repentant heart.

† The early church fathers, like Tertullian (On Modesty 13), stressed the importance of restoration after repentance.

## **2 Corinthians 2:8-9**

Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. For to this end I also wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

† Forgiveness is a test of obedience to Christ.

† Love must be reaffirmed, not withheld.

## **2 Corinthians 2:10-11**

But one whom you forgive anything, I also forgive, for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did so for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

† Forgiveness removes opportunity for Satan to divide and destroy.

† Unforgiveness is one of Satan's schemes against the church.

† Origen (Homilies on Leviticus 16.10) connected unforgiveness with spiritual bondage, aligning with Paul's warning.

## **2 Corinthians 2:12-13**

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

† Even with an open door for ministry, Paul was restless because of concern for Titus and the Corinthians.

† Ministry fruitfulness is tied to genuine concern for people, not just opportunities.

## **2 Corinthians 2:14**

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us reveals the fragrance of the knowledge of Him in every place.

† Paul describes ministry as a triumphal procession, spreading the fragrance of Christ.

† Triumph is not in worldly victory but in the knowledge of Christ spreading through all nations.

† Josephus (Wars 7.5.4) recorded Roman triumphal

processions, imagery Paul transforms for Christ's victory.

## **2 Corinthians 2:15-16**

For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 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?

† The message of Christ divides, to some, life, to others, death.

† Paul humbly admits no one is adequate apart from God's power.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 8) spoke of believers as the fragrance of Christ in a world of corruption.

## **2 Corinthians 2:17**

For we are not like the many, acting deceitfully with the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

† Unlike false teachers, Paul ministers with sincerity before God.

† His words are not for profit but for truth in Christ.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.25) noted Paul's unmatched sincerity compared to false apostles.

## **How it applies to us today**

† 2 Corinthians 2 shows the importance of forgiveness and restoration within the body of Christ.

† Satan seeks advantage where unforgiveness remains, but grace destroys his schemes.

† Ministry is a triumphal procession in Christ, not worldly glory.

† We are the fragrance of Christ, bringing life to some and exposing death to others.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

## Source Index

- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 47 - Paul's love and hardships with Corinth
- † Tertullian, On Modesty 13 - restoration after repentance
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- † Josephus, Wars 7.5.4 - Roman triumph imagery
- † Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians 8 - fragrance of Christ
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