

## 2 Corinthians

### Lesson #4, Chapter 1:23-2:13

Read Chapter 1:12-22, then follow up with 1:23-2:17 before beginning this lesson.

1. Chapter 2 will be better understood if you remember where it fits in the chronological history of the Corinthians.
  - a. *Paul visited Corinth.*
  - b. *After his visit, Paul wrote his first letter to Corinth (now lost).*
  - c. *Paul then wrote a second letter to Corinth – 1 Corinthians.*
  - d. *Paul made a second visit to Corinth – a painful visit.*
  - e. *After that visit, Paul wrote a third letter to Corinth (now lost).*
  - f. *Paul wrote his fourth letter to Corinth – 2 Corinthians.*
  - g. *Then Paul made his third visit to Corinth.*
  - h. Where do the events mentioned in this chapter fit in the above sequence of events?
  
2. Summarize what Paul is saying in 1:23-2:4. How does this section tie in with 1:15-22?
  
3. What was Paul careful not to lord over them (verse 24)? What do you observe about ministry in this verse?
  
4. Why didn't Paul want to come see the Corinthians (verses 1-3)?
  
5. What was Paul's purpose in writing the sorrowful letter (verse 4)?
  
6. Was it easy for Paul to write that sorrowful letter? So why did he do it if it was so miserable? What does that tell you about your own responsibility to your brothers and sisters in Christ?

7. Verses 5-11 reveal the dynamics of church discipline. Review the process of church discipline and list what you learn. See also Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; 1 Tim. 5:1-2, 19-21; Titus 3:10-11.
  
8. What is happening or has happened to the offender (verses 5-11)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Verse 9 reveals part of Paul's purpose in writing the sorrowful letter. What did he want to see? Why would disciplining a sinning brother reveal that?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Look up the following verses to see what else the Bible says about testing someone's obedience: Gen. 12:1 and 4; Gen. 17:13-14 and 22:1-19; Ex. 4:24-26; Deut. 8:2, 16-18; Heb. 5:8; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:12.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What is the purpose of testing someone's obedience? How has your willingness to obey God been tested? How did you respond?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. In verses 5-11 we see that after a sinning brother has repented they are to be restored to the body of Christ. What principles about restoration do you glean from this section? Is there anyone in your life who would benefit from you restoring them to a right relationship?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. How do we prevent ourselves from being taken advantage of by Satan (verses 10-11)? See also Eph. 4:26-27; 6:10-17; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9.

14. Read 2 Cor. 7:6-16 in conjunction with verses 12-13. Why did Paul have no rest in his spirit?
15. How did the Corinthians respond to the sorrowful letter (7:6-16)? Did the Corinthians respond obediently to the test as mentioned in 2:9?
16. Explain what you're to do and why when you have someone in the body of Christ who will not repent of their sin.
17. Explain what you have to do and why when you have someone who repented of their ongoing sin.
18. Take a moment to examine your life. Do you have any areas of ongoing, unrepentant sin that you need to turn away from right now?
19. Knowing that this area is a test of your obedience to God, if you know of someone who claims they are a Christian yet practices or continues in sin, what do you need to do and in what way?

There is more evil in a drop of sin than in a sea of affliction.  
– Thomas Watson

When God smites us with the rod of chastisement, it is faithfulness which wields it. To acknowledge this means that we humble ourselves before Him, own that we fully deserve His correction, and instead of murmuring, thank Him for it. God never afflicts without reason.... God is not only faithful not withstanding afflictions, but faithful in sending them.  
– A.W. Pink, The Attributes of God