

Lesson 2

2 Corinthians 2:1-17

- **Questions**

1. Why did Paul postpone his visit to Corinth? What was he determined not to do with them (2:1-2)?
2. What did Paul do instead of coming to Corinth? What was his purpose in writing to them (prior to 2 Corinthians) and what was he feeling at the time (2:3-4; see also 7:8-12)?
3. What did one of the Corinthians previously do and how was he handled by the church (2:5-6)?
4. What did Paul want the Corinthian brethren to do with this individual and why (2:7-8; see also v. 11)?
5. Why did Paul write to the Corinthians (prior to 2 Corinthians) concerning this individual (2:9)?
6. How did Paul respond to this individual and why (2:10-11)?
7. What did Paul do in Troas, how did he feel, and where did he go from there (2:12-13)?
8. What was Paul's state of mind at this point in the epistle and how did he describe his preaching ministry (2:14)?

9. What two groups of people, or two responses, result from preaching the gospel (2:15-16)?

10. What question did Paul ask (2:16) and what answer is given later (see 3:5-6)?

11. What did Paul refuse to do in his preaching and how did he speak the gospel (2:17; see also 1:12; 4:2)?

• Digging Deeper

1. How is 2:1 connected to 1:23? How is 2:1 connected with 1:17? What visit to Corinth is referenced in 2:1? What is indicated in Acts 19:21 that helps us to piece together Paul's visits to Corinth (see also 2 Cor. 12:14; 13:1)?

2. What correspondence (letter) to the Corinthians is referenced in 2:3-4 (see also 7:8-12)? What is indicated in 1 Corinthians 5:9 that helps us to piece together how many times Paul wrote to the Corinthians?

3. What situation at Corinth is referenced in 2:5-11 (see 1 Cor. 5:1-13)? Is this a reference to the fornicating brother in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, or to some other brother who was causing problems at Corinth?

4. How can a lack of forgiveness give Satan an occasion to cause further problems (2:11)?

5. Where in Acts are these particular visits to Troas and Macedonia mentioned (2:12-13)? What is an "open door" (2:12)? Who was Titus and why did Paul want to see him so badly at Troas (see 7:5-16)?

• Applications for Today

1. Christians should know the love that we have toward them by what we say and do toward them (2:4). What kind of love are Christians to have toward each other (Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 1:22)? What is to be added to our faith (2 Pet. 1:7)?
2. When an erring Christian refuses to repent, he causes “sorrow” in the church (2:5). What caused great sorrow for Paul (Rom. 9:2)?
3. The “punishment” of local church discipline, when properly administered, will do good to restore an erring brother within the church (2:6). What did Jesus say about disfellowship in Matthew 18:15-17? What is one goal of church discipline (2 Thess. 3:14)?
4. When an erring Christian repents, he should be forgiven and shown love (2:7-8, 10). What did Jesus say to do toward a brother who sins (Lk. 17:3)? How should an erring brother be treated (2 Thess. 3:15)?
5. Satan uses devices and schemes to get an individual Christian, and even an entire local church, to become and remain unfaithful (2:11). What are some “devices” that Satan uses to destroy souls? How does the devil act (Eph. 6:11)?
6. It makes a difference how one responds to the gospel. Preaching the gospel results in two things: spiritual death or life (2:14-16). Which one will you choose?
7. Preaching God’s word should not be done with corruption, but with sincerity (2:17). How can preachers and teachers corrupt the word of God today (2 Pet. 3:16)?