

Study 2

Read 2 Corinthians Chapter 2

SUMMARY

Paul continues to defend his integrity by explaining that his change of plans was an effort to prevent his coming to them in sorrow. Indeed, his previous letter was written for the same reason, and with much anguish of heart (1-4). Speaking of grief, he reminds them that the one who caused most of it had properly repented after their disciplinary actions, and they should be careful to forgive and comfort the person. Paul himself was willing to forgive the penitent offender, because he knew how Satan could easily take advantage of their situation (5-11). He then reveals the anxiety of trying to find Titus, which prompted his leaving an "open door" in Troas to go on to Macedonia (12-13). He will return to the subject of finding Titus and the comfort he received upon doing so (7:5-7), but at this point Paul begins vindicating his ministry as an apostle of Christ. With thanks to God, Paul describes the "triumphant" nature of his ministry, in which God leads him as in a victory procession. Carrying the imagery of a victory procession a little further (in which it was common to have incense as part of the parade), Paul views himself and his work as the "fragrance of Christ" which to those being saved is an "aroma of life", but to those who are perishing it is an "aroma of death" (14-16b). Realizing his own insufficiency for such things, he speaks not as those who "peddle" the Word of God, but with sincerity and with an awareness that it comes from God, and is in the sight of God (16c-17).

Questions:

- 1) Paul determined not to come again to Corinth in heaviness and make them sorry (sad), "Who is he then that makes me what?" (II Corinthians 2:1-2)
- 2) Paul wrote the Corinthians in much affliction and anguishes of heart and with many what? (II Corinthians 2-4)
- 3) When Paul wrote the Corinthians with much afflictions and tears he wrote not to grieve them but that they might know what? (II Corinthians 2:4)
- 4) Paul advised the Corinthians to forgive and comfort the fornicator lest he be swallowed up with overmuch what? (II Corinthians 2:6-7)
- 5) Paul wrote the Corinthians we are not ignorant of whose devices? (II Corinthians 2:6-7)
- 6) In Troas Paul had a door opened of the Lord but he had no rest in his spirit because he failed to find someone there. Name him. (II Corinthians 2:12-13)
- 7) After Troas where did Paul go next when he failed to find Titus? (II Corinthians 2:13)
- 8) Who does Paul say causes us to triumph in Christ? (II Corinthians 2:14)

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) What was Paul determined not to do? (1)
- 3) Why did he write his previous letter? (3)
- 4) How did Paul write as he penned his letter? (4)
- 5) What did Paul want them to do with the man who had sinned, yet repented after their disciplinary action toward him? (7-8)
- 6) What was one purpose in writing to them as Paul had done? (9)
- 7) Why was Paul so willing to forgive the offender once the Corinthians had forgiven him? (10-11)
- 8) When Paul came to Troas to preach the gospel, what did he find? (12)
- 9) Who did he not find that troubled him greatly? Where did he then go? (13)
- 10) Why does Paul give God thanks? (14)
- 11) How does Paul describe God working through him? (14)

12) In what two ways, and to what two groups of people, does Paul describe himself as "the fragrance of Christ"? (15-17)

13) How do many misuse the Word of God? How did Paul speak the Word? (17)