

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 2:1-17)

1. Did Paul want a sorrowful or joyful relationship with the saints in Corinth?

He wanted a joyful relationship: *“(1) But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness. (2) For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me? (3) And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all” (II Corinthians 2:1-3).*

- In the previous epistle, he gave them a choice (**I Corinthians 4:21**).
- Now, he is choosing when to come based upon how he will have to be when there (**II Corinthians 1:23**).
- There are real concerns that things haven't changed in Corinth (**II Corinthians 12:20-21**).
- What he'd rather do is find encouragement from Corinth rather than the need to correct them (i.e. **Colossians 1:3-8**).

2. How much was Paul troubled by the problems in Corinth that he had to write them about?

It caused him much affliction and anguish or heart: *“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you” (II Corinthians 2:4).*

- **Psalms 119:53, Psalms 119:136, Jeremiah 13:15-17, and Romans 9:1-3.**
- Such grief is a sign of love (**John 11:35-36**).

3. Once a brother or sister in Christ has been disciplined, is there a point wherein it is time for forgiveness and love to be shown to he or she?

Yes: *“(5) But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. (6) Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. (7) So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. (8) Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him” (II Corinthians 2:5-8).*

- Discipline needed to occur in Corinth (**I Corinthians 5:1-13**).
- Now that such discipline has occurred, there are conditions to be met for forgiveness (**Luke 17:3-4**). Once those conditions are met, forgiveness must occur (**Ephesians 4:32**).
- If such forgiveness is there, bitterness can settle in (**Hebrews 12:12-15**).
- Forgiveness and love go hand in hand (**I Peter 4:8**).

4. What did Paul seek proof of from the brethren in Corinth?

Whether or not they would obey ALL things: *“For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things” (II Corinthians 2:9).*

- **Deuteronomy 8:2, Matthew 7:16; 20, Matthew 12:33, II Corinthians 8:24, and Philippians 2:19-22.**

5. If the brethren in Corinth forgave a brother or sister who had erred, what would Paul do?

Forgive them also: *“To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ” (II Corinthians 2:10).*

- **Matthew 18:15-18.**

6. Is there a benefit in knowing the devices of Satan?

Yes, taking away the advantage by knowing the enemy’s playbook (so to speak): *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Corinthians 2:11).*

- We have to be aware (**I Peter 5:8**) and able to stand against the tricks of evil (**Ephesians 6:11-12**).
- Paul had reason for concern regarding Corinth (**II Corinthians 11:3**).

7. Though Paul had an opportunity to preach in Troas, what caused him to have a restless spirit?

He couldn’t find Titus: *“(12) Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, (13) I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia” (II Corinthians 2:12-13).*

- Titus was a partner and fellow helper in Christ (**II Corinthians 8:23**). A son in the faith (**Titus 1:4**).
- When Titus came to Paul he was comforted (**II Corinthians 7:6**).

8. How did God make known the savour [odor] of His knowledge in every place?

By Paul and those working with him for the cause: *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” (II Corinthians 2:14).*

- The triumph comes from God through Christ (**Romans 8:37** and **I Corinthians 15:57**).
- Knowledge of God is spread through preaching (**Romans 10:14-17, Colossians 1:23, and Titus 1:1-3**).

9. What was the difference in the savour [fragrance] of Paul and his coworkers to those who are saved opposed to those who were to perish?

Sweet to those who are saved while smelling like death to those who perish: *“(15) For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: (16) To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things” (II Corinthians 2:15-16)?*

- Unto God a sweet odor (**Ephesians 5:2** and **Philippians 4:18**).
- Whether people are saved or lost, it is pleasing to God that the Gospel was preached (**I Corinthians 1:17**).
- A smell of death to the lost (**Acts 13:46**).
- A smell of life for those who will be saved (**Acts 8:35-39**).

10. Were there were many in the first century who corrupted the word of God?

Yes: *“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ” (II Corinthians 2:17).*

- **Matthew 24:24, II Corinthians 11:13-15, I Timothy 1:19-20, II Timothy 2:14-18, II Timothy 4:1-5, II Peter 2:1-3, I John 4:1, II John 7, and Jude 3-4.**