

2 Corinthians 2:1-17 **Forgive and Restore – Fragrance of Christ**

Grieved over sorrow caused by first letter

¹ But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. ² For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? ³ And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. ⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Time to forgive – lest Satan take advantage of us

⁵ But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent--not to be too severe.

⁶ This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, ⁷ so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. ⁸ Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. ⁹ For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰ Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Open door in Troas

¹² Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

Fragrance of Christ

¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Grieved over sorrow caused by first letter [2 Corinthians 2:1-4]

- ✚ In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul had corrected a number of problems for which the Church had asked guidance, and one they did not seek guidance but had demonstrated pride in their tolerance of an evil which Paul felt was serious enough to address and call for corrective action.
- ✧ Paul had advised the Corinthian Church to put out of their fellowship the man living with his father's wife by way of Church discipline to demonstrate the seriousness of the offense until he should come to his senses and repent. [1 Corinthians 5:1-13]
- ✧ Fearing it had caused excessive sorrow, Paul had kept away for a time so he would not add sorrow to sorrow by his coming to Corinth.
- ✧ Paul was grieved in his heart to the point of tears over the first letter of correction.

- ✧ Paul desires to come with joy for himself and for the Corinthians, as he expressed abundant love for them.

Time to forgive – Lest Satan take advantage of us [2 Corinthians 2:5-11]

- ✧ Paul desires the sorrow to not be excessively severe.
 - ✧ The first letter was to see if the Corinthians were obedient in all things.
- ✧ The Church action had been successful and the man had come to repentance, so Paul instructed them that it was sufficient, and now is the time to forgive and comfort the man by reaffirming their love for him, lest Satan should take advantage of us.
 - ✧ Paul has forgiven the man in the presence of Christ for the sake of the Corinthians.
 - ✧ We are not ignorant of the ways of Satan and his devices.

Open door in Troas [2 Corinthians 2:12-13]

- ✧ Paul found an open door in Troas to preach the Gospel, but not finding Titus, Paul went on to Macedonia.

Fragrance of Christ [2 Corinthians 2:14-17]

- ✧ Paul gives thanks to God Who always leads us in triumph in Christ.
 - ✧ Through us God diffuses the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ in every place.
 - ✧ To those being saved, it is the fragrance of Christ the Savior and life.
 - ✧ To the perishing, it is the fragrance of judgment and death.
 - ✧ We are not making merchandise of the Word of God, but in sincerity as sent from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.
 - ✧ God has called and sent us, and we are faithful to His calling.