

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 131—2 Corinthians 2

Introduction: In this chapter Paul explains why he was hesitant to return to Corinth immediately after sending his first letter, lest he find them still living in disobedience to the Lord's instructions. But in view of the repentance of the church, and the incestuous fornicator in Corinth, Paul expresses his own forgiveness toward him and urges the church to forgive him also.

Lesson aim: To show that congregational discipline can help convert the erring; and to show the attitude the church should have toward the penitent

Paul explains why he was reluctant to come to Corinth—2 Cor. 1:23-2:4

1. Why did Paul say he came to Corinth no more? (1:23)
2. Did Paul want to “lord it over” the Corinthian's faith? How did Paul regard himself? (1:24)
3. What was Paul's condition when he wrote his letter of rebuke to the Corinthians? (v. 2:4) Did he write it to make them sorrow? Why did he write it?

Paul urges forgiveness of the one the church had delivered to Satan and who apparently had repented—2 Cor. 2:5-11

1. The sorrow that the Corinthians experienced because of Paul's rebuke was really the cause of one man's sin. What did Paul say this man's transgressions had caused? (v. 5)
2. Now that he had repented, what did Paul urge the church to do? (v. 6-7) Why?
3. What did Paul urge the Corinthians to reaffirm toward the sinning man? (v. 8) What kind of test had Paul's command to the Corinthians been? (v. 9)

4. Did Paul forgive the sinning man? (v. 10) Why was Paul eager to do so? (v. 11)

Paul rejoices in the victory God has granted him—2 Cor. 5:12-17

1. When Paul left Ephesus where did he go? (v. 12) Were there opportunities to teach?