

Paul's Second letter to the Corinthians

Chapter Two

FEAR?

2 Corinthians 2:1-17 NIV (1) So I made up my mind that I would not make another **painful visit** to you. (2) For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? (3) I wrote as I did so that when I came I should **not be distressed** by those who ought to make me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. (4) For I wrote you out of **great distress and anguish of heart** and with **many tears**, not to grieve you but to let you know **the depth of my love for you**.

Paul explains how God's "Yes" meant leaving the Corinthians for a while to sort themselves out before Paul visited them again. They were divided, self centred, proud, spiritually immature, disorderly

Compare Paul's approach in the two letters - some pain on both sides!

FORGIVENESS

(5) If anyone has **caused grief**, he has not so much grieved me as he has **grieved all of you**, to some extent—not to put it too severely. (6) The **punishment inflicted** on him by the **majority** is sufficient for him. (7) Now instead, you ought to **forgive and comfort** him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by **excessive sorrow**. (8) I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. (9) The reason I wrote you was **to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything**. (10) If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,

There was a member of the church whose sin was public and had to be dealt with. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the point of discipline is to bring repentance and restoration. Writing the first letter had been a "test". However, there were several other matters to deal with.

FOOLED

(11) in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

We can be outwitted?!!!!

If we compromise on God's standards we can be compromised



FRIENDSHIP

(12) Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, (13) **I still had no peace of mind**, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

Paul needed his closest friends. Titus was a Gentile in the apostolic team!

FRAGRANCE

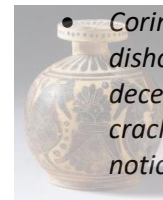
(14) But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere **the fragrance of the knowledge of him**. (15) For we are to God **the aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (16) To the one we are the smell of **death**; to the other, **the fragrance of life**.

We think of hearing from God; seeing the truth; being touched by God; tasting God's Word. Here the fifth sense is included - the smell of Christian life and testimony. Paul speaks of triumph here but before wrote of being at the back of the procession- 1 Cor 4:9

FAITHFUL

And **who is equal** to such a task? (17) Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with **sincerity**, like men sent from God.

Sincerity, integrity, faithfulness, loyalty, truth



Corinth was famous in its day for its fine pottery. However, many dishonest merchants plied that trade. If a vessel were cracked, some deceitful potters would melt wax and carefully wedge it between the cracks. They would then skilfully paint over the flaw so it couldn't be noticed by an unsuspecting customer.

NKJV - And **who is sufficient** for these things? (17) 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.

2 Corinthians 3:5 NKJV Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,