

REVIEW

- True or False: Paul at some time had intended to go to Corinth on the way to Macedonia on his third journey and then return to Corinth again from Macedonia.
 - True (2 Corinthians 1:15-16)



REVIEW

- Why did Paul not come to Corinth as he had planned, according to 1:23?
 - To spare them
- Describe Paul's state of mind/emotions when he wrote the first letter.
 - Out of much affliction and anguish of heart, with many tears

REVIEW

- If in chapter 2 Paul is speaking of the fornicator of 1 Corinthians 5, what did he say about the church's action they had taken toward him?
 - The punishment inflicted by the majority was sufficient (2:6)
- What was the action they had taken?
 - Delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh; not keep company with; put away from themselves the wicked person (1 Corinthians 5:5, 9, 13)



REVIEW

- What should the church now do toward him?
 - Forgive him, comfort him, reaffirm your love to him (2:7-8)
- What danger is there if the brethren do not forgive and comfort that man?
 - He could be swallowed up with too much sorrow (2:7)
- What is the device of Satan of verse 11?
 - Tempting Christians to not forgive and comfort the penitent Christian

REVIEW

- Did Paul have a good opportunity to preach in Troas?
 - Yes (v.12)
- Why then did Paul leave Troas?
 - Anxiety because he did not find Titus (v.13)
- Why might this cause anxiety?
 - Expecting Titus to bring back a report of how the Corinthians had received the first letter (7:5-7)

HIGH-LEVEL SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (10-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- I. Deep concern for the Corinthians (1:3-2:13)
 - A. Sincere Behavior (1:12-14)
 - B. Explaining change of plans and dealing with charge of fickleness (1:15-22)
 - C. Sparing the Corinthians a painful visit (1:23-24)
 - D. Why Paul wrote the former letter (2:1-4)
 - E. Reclaiming the penitent (2:5-11)
 - F. Anxiety in Troas (2:12-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- II. The Apostle's Ministry of the New Covenant (2:14-7:16)
 - A. The apostles – true ministers of Christ (2:14-17)
 - B. The Corinthians are Paul's letter of recommendation (3:1-3)
 - C. Paul, as God's minister of the new covenant, is made sufficient by God for this task (3:4-6)
 - D. The glory of the new covenant (3:7-11)
 - E. The reason for Paul's boldness (3:12-18)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)



2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17

PAUL: THE FRAGRANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

“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.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3

THE CORINTHIANS ARE PAUL'S EPISTLE

“Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? {2} You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; {3} clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

THE APOSTLE PAUL: GOD'S MINISTER; MADE SUFFICIENT

“And we have such trust through Christ toward God. {5} Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, {6} who also made us sufficient as ministers of the **new covenant**, not **of the letter** but **of the Spirit**; for **the letter kills**, but **the Spirit gives life.**”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-11

THE MINISTRY OF THE NEW COVENANT CONTRASTED TO THE OLD

“But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, {8} how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? {9} For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. {10} For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. {11} For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

REASON FOR THE APOSTLES' GREAT BOLDNESS OF SPEECH

“Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — {13} unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. {14} But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. {15} But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. {16} Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

REASON FOR THE APOSTLES' GREAT BOLDNESS OF SPEECH

“{17} Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. {18} But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”



TAKE AWAYS

- The gospel is one of two things to people – dependent on their own heart and reception of it
- The apostles had a great assignment as ministers of the new covenant; God made them sufficient for the task
- The old covenant is referred to as “of the letter”, and the new covenant is referred to as “of the Spirit”
 - For Christians to talk about following the spirit of the law as opposed to following the letter of the law is unsound speech

TAKE AWAYS

- Religious error: Some say the law of Moses is the ceremonial law that was done away with, but the law of God is the 10 commandments and it was not done away with in Christ.
 - But here in chapter 3, there is no doubt the 10 commandments are being spoken of, and they are said to be passing away
- The law of the Spirit is written in the hearts of Christians so that they will be transformed to be like the Lord