

# Doctrines of the Heart

2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11

## Introduction:

- 1:23 – Paul returns to the original charge of **not coming** to Corinth. He had set it aside to deal with the more serious charge of **unfaithfulness in teaching**.  
“to spare you...”  
*i.e.* Not to come with a rod and to give **them** a chance to repent.
- “Is this true?” with no witness he invokes God. “I called God as witness...” the omniscient God who avenges perjury...
- 1:24 – He clarifies, lest they accuse him of lording it over them  
“not that we have dominion over your faith...”
- Paul has no authority over **what they should believe**, or their faith. That is God’s position.
- Faith is not subject to **man** but to **God** who alone reveals truth. Paul was an **instrument** of revelation, not the **source** of truth.
- So what **is** his place? He was positioned **alongside** them to **help them** unto joy “...for in **your** faith...strong.”
- 2:1 – But Paul also **did not come** to Corinth **for himself**.
- 2:2 – “How can I be happy if you are not?” Such was the Apostles love. Only a joyful and obedient people could make him happy. A minister is not a cold, intellectual detached person. He is emotionally attached.
- 2:3 – And **this** is what I wrote in my sorrowful letter, that the evils might be corrected **before** I came.  
*i.e.* They were meant to make happy not sad...
- 2:4 – Rebuke was a **painful** duty. No parent enjoys causing sorrow. No pastor should enjoy causing pain. It brought Paul “tears.”  
“...specially for you” Greater sin → Greater care.

- 2:5-11 – So **what** caused so much sorrow?...1 Cor. 5
- 2:5 – “He has caused sorrow not to me...But **in part**...to all.”  
*i.e.* he wants to soften the blow toward the offender by lessening the offense.  
Paul is merciful to the offender... unvindictive.
- 2:6 – Church discipline was sufficient. Paul was more lenient than the church who made it personal...
- 2:7 – “forgive...such a one”
- 2:8 – Rather... “Ratify...” an official pronouncement to the restored.  
“You are OK.”
- 2:9 – Because the purpose of my writing is **accomplished**...  
“Would you obey?”
- 2:10 – Paul was ready to join in that forgiveness...  
He sanctions that forgiveness but will not force it.
- Both discipline and forgiveness had to be willing.
  - The local church has to function independently on Biblical injunctions.
- “In the Presence of Christ”  
Each church responds to its head, Jesus Christ.
- 2:11 – Though Christ looks on, there is someone else there.  
An Adversary...with “schemes”  
Satan brought disruption first through error and compromise.  
And then disruption through unforgiveness.
- Paul is aware of Satan’s “schemes”

## Conclusion: