

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: