

## 2 Corinthians 2 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup>But I determined this for my own sake that I would not come to you in sorrow again.

<sup>2</sup>For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful?

<sup>3</sup>This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be *the joy* of you all.

<sup>4</sup>For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

<sup>5</sup>But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you.

<sup>6</sup>Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority,

<sup>7</sup>so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

<sup>8</sup>Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.

<sup>9</sup>For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

<sup>10</sup>But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

**MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: ACTION STEP - “WE—Have been saved, are being saved, shall be saved” 2 Timothy 2:19(NASB)** Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

<sup>11</sup>so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- *Paul gave a third reason: they must forgive the offender for the church's sake (2 Cor. 2:11). When there is an unforgiving spirit in a congregation because sin has not been dealt with in a biblical manner, it gives Satan a “beachhead” from which he can operate in the congregation. We grieve the Holy Spirit and “give place to the devil” when we harbor an unforgiving spirit (Eph. 4:27-32).*
- *One of Satan's “devices” is to accuse believers who have sinned so that they feel their case is hopeless. I have had people write me or phone me to ask for help because they have been under satanic oppression and accusation. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin so that we will confess it and turn to Christ for cleansing; but Satan accuses us of sin so that we will despair and give up.*
- *When an offending brother or sister is disciplined according to the Bible, and repents, then the church family must forgive and restore the member, and the matter must be forgotten and never brought up again. If the church family—or any person in the family—carries an unforgiving spirit,*

*then Satan will use that attitude as a beachhead for new assaults against the church. Please read Matthew 18:15-20. It is what I like to refer to as a grievance procedure.*

- *Paul was able to overcome the problems that he faced because he had a clear conscience and a compassionate heart. But there was a third spiritual resource that gave him victory.*

<sup>12</sup>Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,  
<sup>13</sup>I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

<sup>14</sup>**But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**

<sup>15</sup>**For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;**

<sup>16</sup>to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

<sup>17</sup>**For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.**

### **To Thwart Satan**

***“...so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes. (2 Cor. 2:11)”***

- *Satan’s goal for the church is the opposite of God’s. God wants a humble, merciful, joyful, loving, obedient fellowship; Satan wants one where sin reigns supreme. If sin is confronted, Satan wants it done so in a harsh, graceless, merciless manner. Both failing to deal with sin and failing to forgive repentant sinners can destroy a church. Paul stressed that the Corinthians must forgive and restore the repentant individual **so that no advantage would be taken of them by Satan**. An unforgiving spirit plays right into the devil’s hands and gives him the leverage he needs to split a church apart.*
- *Believers dare not be **ignorant of Satan’s schemes** but must “stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11) and “not give the devil an opportunity” (Eph. 4:27). Two vitally important ways of doing that are dealing with sin and forgiving one another..*
- *Forgiveness affects the one who forgives (2 Cor. 2:5), the one forgiven (2 Cor. 2:6-8), and the entire church (2 Cor. 2:9-11). The hard work of disciplining sinners and restoring those who repent is a true test of a church’s love for the Lord.*