

## 2 Corinthians 1 Pt 2 and 2 Pt 1

Jesus

- 4<sup>th</sup> and last known letter to Corinth
- Benefits of suffering well for Christ
- Why God gives us more than we can handle...

**2 Corinthians 1:8** For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that **we despaired even of life.** 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should **not trust in ourselves but in God...**

### IV. Misunderstood

12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that **we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity,** not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God and more abundantly toward you.

Accusations Against Paul

- **Deceptive:** False motives
- **Fake:** Not who he claimed to be

Paul's reply: We boast/lit. rejoice in this...

- **We acted in Simplicity:** We were genuine
- **We acted in Sincerity:** We walked in purity/Godliness before all

Underling Accusation: You suffered because you deserved it

**2 Timothy 3:11** [Of the persecutions he endured] ...out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

**John 15:18** If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.**

**1 John 3:13** Do not marvel, my brethren, **if the world hates you.**

**1 Peter 3:16** [Maintain] ...a **good conscience,** that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your **good conduct in Christ** may be ashamed.

We Rejoice in having a Clear Conscience

13 For we are not writing **any other things** to you than what you **read or understand.** Now I trust you will understand, even to the end 14 (as also you have understood us in part), that **we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

NLT Our letters have been straightforward, and there is nothing written between the lines and nothing you can't understand. I hope someday you will fully understand us...

We should be rejoicing w/one another  
We will all meet at the Bema Seat of Christ!

**Philippians 2:16 ...hold fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

No Eternal Perspective on Life  
Instead of Rejoicing...They were Accusing

On top of suffering for the sake of the Gospel, Paul is suffering from false accusations of those *he led to the Lord*, accusing him of not keeping his word to come to them but sending a letter instead. It is because of these ongoing accusations that Paul was led to "text" Corinth at this time rather than to meet face to face w/those who willingly chose to misunderstand him. [NJC]

What is it that tempts us to believe the worst?  
Shouldn't we err on the side of Grace?

## V. God's Work

15 And in this confidence **I intended to come to you** before, that you might have a **second benefit**— 16 to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be **helped by you on my way to Judea.**

Paul's Heart is Breaking  
I did intend to come to you...

17 Therefore, when I was planning this, **did I do it lightly?** Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be **Yes, Yes, and No, No?** 18 **But as God is faithful,** our word [lit Our message] to you was not Yes and No.

The worst accusation?  
That Paul did not accurately represent Jesus to others

God is Trustworthy...I am Trustworthy  
I planned to come but always ... *if the Lord wills*

**1 Corinthians 4:1** Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that **one be found faithful ...19** But I will come to you shortly, **if the Lord wills...**

19 For the **Son of God**, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not **Yes and No**, but **in Him was Yes.** 20 For **all the promises of God in Him are Yes**, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

AMP For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] "Yes." So through Him we say our "Amen" to the glory of God.

As God is True in Word/Deed...  
We are called to be True in Word/Deed

**Matthew 5:37** But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

**James 5:12** But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

Jesus Rejoices in Undiluted Truth

**John 1:46** And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

God is a God of Truth

**1 John 5:20** And we know that **the Son of God has come** and has given us an understanding, that we may know **Him who is true**; and **we are in Him who is true**, in His Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God and eternal life.**

Very Hurtful Accusation: You Misrepresent Jesus  
Paul does not attack but instead deflects back to God's faithfulness

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,  
22 who also has **sealed us** and **given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**

God is He who *Establishes us*  
God is He who *Anoints us*  
God is He who *Seals us*

IOWs As messed up as everything seems to be  
It is God who will finish His work in us and you

**Philippians 1:6** ...being confident of this...He who has begun a good work in you will **complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ...

Paul had to constantly remind himself of this truth w/re. to Corinth  
This is God's work

**1 Corinthians 1:4** I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also **confirm you to the end**, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's work from Beginning to End  
Alpha to Omega

- **The Spirit Establishes Us:** Convicts us. Calls us. Crushes us. Constructs us
- **The Spirit Anoints Us:** Empowers us. Teaches us. Bided with us
- **The Spirit Seals Us:** Guarantees He will finish the work in us for Heaven

**Ephesians 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption.**

**2 Corinthians 5:5** Now He who has prepared us for [Heave] also has given us the **Spirit as a guarantee.**

**Ephesians 1:14** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

IOWs As messed up as everything seems to be  
I know God will finish His work in us and you

23 Moreover I call **God as witness against my soul** that **to spare you I came no more to Corinth.** 24 Not that we have dominion [lit. Rule] over your faith, but are **fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.**

My last letter was heavy: Out of love not anger  
The Spirit led me to give you time to allow Him to work without me

Heavy task for Paul: Filled w/desiring the their best...

**Philippians 1:8** ...God is my witness, how greatly **I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.**

I now need to trust God that He can actually work in you but w/out me  
You are my fellow workers not my servants

**1 Peter 5:2** Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but **being examples to the flock...**

I'm letting you go for a time to give God room to work

**Philippians 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;** 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

## 2 Corinthians 2

Jesus

## I. Forgiving in Christ

1 But I determined this within myself, that **I would not come again to you in sorrow.** 2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? 3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that **my joy is the joy of you all.**

Paul pours his heart out...I can't fix this  
If coming only makes you more sad...And your sadness will make me sad, then...

Paul hoped that his [previous] letter would get all the painful work out of the way. Then when he did visit them personally, it would be a pleasant visit because they would have taken advantage of the opportunity he gave them to get right. [Guzik]

Nothing seemed to work w/these worldly Corinthians

**Matthew 11:16** ...what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, 17 and saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.' 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a **glutton and a winebibber**, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children.

Paul can't win for losing. No win situation  
All Paul's Letters to Corinth were written in tears...

4 For **out of much affliction** [lit. Tribulation] **and anguish of heart I wrote to you**, with **many tears**, not that you should be grieved, but **that you might know the love** which I have so abundantly for you.

Tough Love applied to Thin Skin?  
I didn't mean to grieve you but tell you the truth for your growth  
Most couldn't handle the truth...Though some Listened/Obedyed...  
Paul had instructed Corinth on Church Discipline

**1 Corinthians 5:1** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! 2 And **you are puffed up**, and have not **rather mourned**, that he who has done this deed might be **taken away from among you.** 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 **deliver such a one to Satan** for the destruction of the flesh, that **his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe. 6 This **punishment** which was inflicted by the

majority **is sufficient** for such a man, 7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to **forgive and comfort him**, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. 8 Therefore I urge you to **reaffirm your love to him**. 9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might **put you to the test**, whether you are **obedient in all things**.

Put to the Test? I.e. Following through w/ Church Discipline  
Now Forgive. Now comfort. Now restore

10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, **I have forgiven that one** for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 **lest Satan should take advantage of us**; for **we are not ignorant of his devices**.

No Forgiveness w/out Repentance  
Always Forgiveness w/Repentance

V 11 Unforgiveness is an open door to Satan  
We are not ignorant of the ways he works to Divide/Conquer

IOWs Want a miserable life of condemnation/demonic oppression?  
Hold on to unforgiveness.

**Important:** Though forgiveness can only be applied after the offenders repentance, bitterness on the part of the one offended is as sinful/destructive as unforgiveness

- **Both Bitterness/Unforgiveness:** Drinking poison hoping the other person will die

Forgiving is Not Optional

**Mark 11:25** ...whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26 But if you do not forgive...**

...neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses

- **Best case Interpretation:** You will not experience comfort of God's forgiveness
- **Worst case Interpretation:** You will not go to heaven. Unforgiveness sign unbelief
- **Matthew 18:32-35**
  1. Servant forgiven million bucks after begging
  2. Strangled fellow servant 5 bucks after begging
  3. Throws him in jail till all is paid

**Matthew 18:32** Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, '**You wicked servant!** I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and **delivered him to the torturers** until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My

heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, **from his heart**, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

- How much do I have to forgive? Totally/From the heart
- How many times do I have to forgive? 70 x 7

I won't forgive. It's just who I am. The way I am.

Very matter if fact kind of person. Okay...

If you do not forgive your Father will not forgive you. Not optional

Try the Coffee Test after understanding this Key Verse...

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

How much has Jesus forgiven you?

Go and do likewise