

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 3 - Forgiveness for the Sinner - 2 Corinthians 2:1-11

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

2 CO 2:1 So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. [2] For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? [3] I wrote as I did so that when I came I should not be distressed by those who ought to make me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. [4] For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

2CO 2:5 If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent--not to put it too severely. [6] The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. [7] Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. [8] I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. [9] The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. [10] If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, [11] in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 3 - Forgiveness for the Sinner - 2 Corinthians 2:1-11

26. What were Paul's visits to Corinth like? (2:1)
27. Why did Paul write about his distress and anguish? (2:4)
28. What situation is Paul responding to in this passage? (2:5)
29. What did Paul mean when he said that the sinner in the Corinthian church had hurt all of the Corinthians? (2:5)
30. How did the Corinthians finally respond to the person who hurt Paul? (2:6)
31. What was the man's reaction to the Corinthian's discipline? (2:7)
32. What advice did Paul give the Corinthians regarding the man who had sinned? (2:7-8)

33. How were the Corinthians to reaffirm their love for the man they disciplined? (2:8)
34. Why did Paul write to the Corinthians? (2:9)
35. Why was it important that the Corinthians forgive the man whom they disciplined? (2:10-11)
36. In what way can Satan outwit us? (2:10-11)
37. What danger did Paul want to avoid? (2:11)
38. What were the Corinthian Christians not naive about? (2:11)
39. What is the difference between discipline and punishment?

Lesson 4 - Ministers of the New Covenant - 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

2CO 2:12 Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, [13] I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

2CO 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. [15] For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. [16] To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? [17] Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 4 - Ministers of the New Covenant - 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

40. Why was Paul willing to leave Troas, despite the opportunities there? (2:12-13)
41. Why was Paul thankful to the Lord? (2:14)
42. How can knowledge of Christ be a fragrance? (2:14)
43. By what method did Paul expect the gospel to be spread? (2:14)
44. In what way are Christians the aroma of Christ? (2:15)
45. Which two groups of people are affected by how Christians live? (2:15)
46. In what way are Christians the smell of death to some and the fragrance of life to others? (2:16)

47. How did some people misuse the Word of God? (2:17)