

# Studies in

# 2 Corinthians

Lesson III

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**TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 2:1-11

**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. **4** For out of much affliction 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.

**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. **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.

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## Discussion Questions

1. After writing 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul desired to return to Corinth, but didn't want to approach them in what kind of a spirit (vs. 1-3)?

2. Confronting someone can often be difficult and, therefore, it is easy to confront in anger. How did Paul confront the people at Corinth? (vs. 4) Why do problems often go unconforted in the church?

3. Why is it always better to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) than to go behind someone’s back and gossip about them?

4. Once a wrong has been confronted, what should our attitude be towards that person? (vv. 5-8)

5. What “test” did Paul give to the Corinthians? (vs. 9)

6. Satan can easily take advantage of a church if Christians don’t do what? (vv. 10-11)

7. How many times does Paul use the words comfort, confidence, forgiveness, and joy in this passage? What does that tell us about the culture of the early church?