

II Corinthians - Chapters 2 and 3- Handout #2

Paul was concerned about the affect his visit would have on the Corinthians in light of a letter of correction he had written them.

v.1-4 Did not want his visit to be painful for them because they are his joy; if he makes them sorrowful, then from where will his joy come. He wrote to them not to cause tears but that they would know how much he loved them.

v.5-11 Paul admonishes them to forgive brother in error (might be same who had committed sin concerning his father's wife, I Corinthians 5). Unforgiveness could be a device of the devil, especially if the world sees the church as unforgiving and rigid.

v. 12-13 Going from Philippi to Troas by sea(Acts 20:6) and on to Macedonia prevented Paul from passing through Corinth as he had planned. He was disappointed that TITUS was not in Troas when he arrived. (Titus did meet him, however, in Macedonia)

2:14 - Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

v. 15, 16 The gospel is sweet perfume of life to some (especially those who believe), and to others it is the smell of death (those who perish, who won't believe)

v. 16, 17 Who is sufficient to do this work? None of us of ourselves. Paul claims he does not corrupt the word of God as many do but sincerely ministers.

Chapter 3

v. 1-4 Paul didn't need letters of commendation; the church in Corinth were living letters, epistles, known and read of all men.

v. 5 We are not sufficient of ourselves; our sufficiency is of God.

v.6-17 This is a discussion contrasting the faded glory of the old testament with the remaining glory of the new testament. Paul uses the glory that was seen on Moses face when he received the law, glory which eventually faded away but was veiled, and contrasts it with the glory of the gospel of grace, whose glory is much more glorious, and will never fade. All those in Christ clearly see the glory, reflect the glory of Christ.

v.17, 18 The Lord and the Spirit are one and the same, and by His Spirit we are set completely free, from the death of the law, from condemnation, from the servitude to sin, free to love God. We are made into the image of Christ, more and more, from glory to glory.