

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 7

TITLE: CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND FORGIVENESS

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

INTRODUCTION: (1) A QUICK GLANCE AT HUMAN HISTORY
TEACHES US THAT FALLEN PEOPLE DO NOT READILY
FORGIVE.

* REPEATED WARS, LONGTIME FEUDS, CENTURIES OF
DEADLY RETALIATION BETWEEN BOTH RELIGIOUS AND
RACIAL GROUPS AND PERSONAL HATEFUL VENGEANCE
HAVE MARRED HUMAN HISTORY SINCE THE FALL OF
ADAM.

** IN FACT, MANY PEOPLE SEE FORGIVENESS AS
WEAKNESS, NOT A VIRTUE, AND VENGEANCE AS A
STRENGTH.

*** AND SOME WOULD EVEN COMMUNICATE THAT
FORGIVENESS IS UNHEALTHY AND NOT COOL.

**** BUT UNDERSTAND THE PRICE AND TOLL OF
REFUSING TO FORGIVE IS HIGH!

(2) UNFORGIVENESS PRODUCES HATRED, ANGER, BITTERNESS, ANIMOSITY AND A DESIRE TO RETALIATE AND BE VENGEFUL, ALL VERY UNHEALTHY PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND ALSO CLOGS UP OUR COURTS WITH A MULTITUDE OF VENGEFUL LAWSUITS.

* UNFORGIVING PEOPLE ARE SOUR, BITTER, JOYLESS, ALWAYS ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING AND KEEP THEIR ANGER ALIVE BY CONTINUALLY PICKING AT THE OPEN WOUND AND KEEP IT FROM HEALING.

** BEYOND THAT, REFUSING TO FORGIVE IMPRISONS PEOPLE IN THEIR PAST AND ALLOWS BITTERNESS TO TAKE ROOT IN THEIR LIVES WHICH DEFILES THEM, (QUOTE HEBREWS 12:14&15).

*** NOW IN CONTRAST TO THE NEGATIVE QUALITIES OF AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT, FORGIVENESS FREES PEOPLE FROM THE PAST.

**** FORGIVENESS IS HEALTHY BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

(3) FORGIVENESS IS LIBERATING, IT IS EXHILARATING, IT ALLOWS YOU TO GO TO BED AT NIGHT WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE IN THAT AREA, TO SLEEP THE SLEEP OF THE JUST.

* FORGIVENESS RELIEVES PAIN AND TENSION, IT BRINGS JOY AND PEACE, IT RESTORES RELATIONSHIP AND KNOCKS DOWN WALLS THAT CAN BUILD UP. IT IS A BLESSING.

** NOW THE APOSTLE PAUL UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND LIVED FORGIVENESS.

*** AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY, HE WILL ADMONISH THE CORINTHIANS TO FORGIVE AND COMFORT A MAN WHO HAD APPARENTLY BEEN DISCIPLINED BY THE CORINTHIANS CHURCH.

**** AND IT APPEARS FROM AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF II CORINTHIANS THIS MAN IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH GOT SUCKED INTO CRITICISM OF PAUL BY THE FALSE TEACHERS AND JUMPED ON THEIR BANDWAGON AND PUBLICLY, IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH CALLED PAUL (PAUL BEING THERE ON HIS PAINFUL VISIT, CALLED PAUL DISHONEST, FICKLE AND NOT A MAN OF TRUTH, THAT HIS YES WAS NO AND HIS NO WAS YES, THAT PAUL LACKED INTEGRITY.

(4) AND IT APPEARS FROM II CORINTHIANS 12:11 AND OTHER TEXTS THAT THE CORINTHIANS DID NOT DEFEND PAUL'S INTEGRITY, THEY GOT CAUGHT UP IN WHAT THE

FALSE TEACHERS WERE SAYING ABOUT PAUL'S CHANGE IN HIS TRAVEL PLANS. THEY WERE SWAYED BY THEM.

* WELL, THE CORINTHIANS WILL REPENT OF THEIR SIN AND LACK OF DEFENDING PAUL'S INTEGRITY AND APOSTLESHIP AND WILL RIGHTLY DISCIPLINE THIS MAN PAUL WILL TALK ABOUT IN II CORINTHIANS 2:5-11. (PAUL MOST LIKELY INSTRUCTED THEM TO DISCIPLINE HIM IN THE SEVERE LETTER OF TEARS, TALKED ABOUT IN V. 4)

** BUT SOMETIME AFTER 4TH STAGE CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND HAVING BEEN PUT OUT OF THE CHURCH FOR SOWING DISCORD AMONG THE BRETHERN AND CALLING PAUL PUBLICLY A LIAR, HE REPENTS.

*** BUT AT THE POINT OF WRITING II CORINTHIANS, HE HAD NOT BEEN RESTORED TO THE CHURCH AND HAD NOT BEEN FORGIVEN BY THE CONGREGATION.

**** AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY, PAUL WILL CHALLENGE THE CORINTHIANS TO FORGIVE HIM AND COMFORT HIM AND RESTORE HIM, WHICH SHOWS THE HEART OF PAUL.

(5) THAT HIS INSTRUCTION IN THE SEVERE LETTER TO DISCIPLINE HIM WAS NOT VENGEANCE BUT LOVE AND A DESIRE TO RESTORE HIM.

* SO THE THEME THAT OUR PASSAGE FOR TODAY DEALS WITH IS CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND FORGIVENESS, WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR STUDY TODAY.

** AND WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT OF THIS PASSAGE, NO. 1 THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION AT CORINTH, V. 5; NO.2 THE RESTORATION OF THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN DISCIPLINED, VV. 6&7; NO. 3 THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE CORINTHIAN'S LOVE TO THIS MAN, V. 8; AND NO. 4 THE REMINDER FROM PAUL TO BE OBEDIENT IN THIS AREA AND CONSEQUENCES IF THEY DON'T VV. 9-11.

**** AND WITH THOSE 4 POINTS AS OUR SPIRITUAL GPS TO TAKE US WHERE WE NEED TO GO, LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL BEGIN OUR JOURNEY BY LOOKING AT THE REALITY OF WHAT'S GOING ON.

I. THE REALITY, (READ V. 5)

A. NOW THE PHRASE "IF ANY HAS CAUSED SORROW" ASSUMES THE CONDITION TO BE TRUE, FOR THE CONDITIONAL PARTICLE "A" IN THE GREEK,

TRANSLATED “IF”, IS ASSURED TO BE TRUE IN THIS CONTEXT.

*** SO A MAN, THE “HE” OF V. 5, CAUSED SORROW, LIT. PAIN, GRIEF, TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH.**

**** AND PAUL ACKNOWLEDGES THE OFFENSE, THE SIN THAT THIS MAN CAUSED AND HIS NAME IS NOT GIVEN FOR THE CORINTHIANS KNEW WHO IT WAS AND PAUL DID NOT COMMUNICATE HIS SIN, BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNEW WHAT HE DID, MOST LIKELY CALLING PAUL OUT AS A LIAR IN FRONT OF PAUL AND THE CHURCH AND THE DAMAGE IT DID IN SOWING DISCORD AMONG THE BRETHREN.**

***** BUT UNDERSTAND THIS WAS NOT ALL ABOUT PAUL OR HIS PAIN IN WHAT THIS MAN DID TO HIM, IT WAS ALL ABOUT CHRIST’S CHURCH AND WHAT HE DID TO THE CHURCH.**

****** SO PAUL SAYS IN THE NEXT PHRASE, “HE HAS CAUSED SORROW, NOT TO ME.”**

1. MEANING: IT WAS NOT ALL ABOUT PAUL, BUT ALL ABOUT THE CHURCH, IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE LORD.

*** AND YES PAUL HAD TO BE HURT BY THIS MAN, BUT IN HIS HUMILITY AND PROPER PERSPECTIVE PAUL SAW THE**

BIG PICTURE OF HOW THIS AFFECTED THE CHURCH AND THIS BROTHER.

**** PAUL HUMBLY ROSE ABOVE THE OFFENSE AND FORGAVE THE MAN, REFUSING TO SEE HIMSELF AS A VICTIM OR TO CARRY A GRUDGE AGAINST THE ONE WHO SINNED AGAINST HIM.**

****** THERE WAS NO PLACE IN PAUL'S HUGE HEART FOR BITTER RESENTMENT OR PRIDE AGAINST THIS MAN'S SIN, BUT REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION AND HOW IT AFFECTED THE CHURCH WAS WHAT PAUL WAS DIALED IN ABOUT.**

****** AND THEN IN THE LAST PHRASE OF V. 5, PAUL SAYS: "BUT IN SOME DEGREE – IN ORDER NOT TO SAY TOO MUCH – TO ALL OF YOU."**

2. NOW THE REAL PAIN AND SORROW, AS PAUL SAW IT, WAS TO THE CHURCH, NOT SO MUCH TO HIM, AND SO HE DID NOT WANT TO SAY TOO MUCH, HE DID NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE, HE DOWNPLAYED THE INCIDENT AND IN ESSENCE ASKED THE CORINTHIANS NOT TO BLOW IT OUT OF PROPORTION CONCERNING THE EFFECT ON HIM.

*** FOR WE WILL SEE, AS FAR AS PAUL WAS CONCERNED, THE MAN HAD REPENTED; THE INCIDENT WAS OVER, AND**

IT WAS TIME TO FORGIVE AND RESTORE HIM, AS WE WILL SEE IN OUR NEXT POINT IN VV. 6&7, THE RESTORATION. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH.

II. THE RESTORATION, (READ V.6)

A. NOW ONE THING WE WILL SEE IN VV. 6&7 IS, THERE IS A TIME TO CONFRONT, TO CAREFRONT AND THERE IS A TIME TO COMFORT.

*** AND TWO EXTREMES IN CHURCH DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE AVOIDED.**

**** NO. 1 BEING TOO LENIENT BY NOT CAREFRONTING SIN IN THE CHURCH; AND NO. 2 BEING TOO HARSH BY NOT RESTORING THE SINNER WHEN THERE ARE FRUITS OF REPENTANCE.**

***** WELL HERE IN V. 6, PAUL POINTS OUT THAT THE PUNISHMENT (MOST LIKELY BEING PUT OUT OF THE CHURCH) THAT WAS INFLICTED WAS SUFFICIENT, WAS ENOUGH AND IT CAUSED ITS GOAL OF REPENTANCE.**

****** AND THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED PUNISHMENT HERE IS USED ONLY ONE TIME IN THE N.T., RIGHT HERE AND IT LIT. REFERS TO AN OFFICIAL DISCIPLINARY ACT, A TECHNICAL TERM FOR AN OFFICIAL ACT OF DISCIPLINE, MOST LIKELY BEING PUT OUT OF THE CHURCH, 4TH STAGE CHURCH DISCIPLINE.**

1. AND THIS TRUTH WAS TAUGHT BY JESUS IN MATTHEW 18: 15-17 WHICH SAYS:

V. 15 – IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, GO AND SHOW HIM HIS FAULT IN PRIVATE; IF HE LISTENS TO YOU, YOU HAVE WON YOUR BROTHER.

V. 16 – BUT IF HE DOES NOT LISTEN TO YOU, TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE WITH YOU, SO THAT BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

V. 17 – IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THEM, TELL IT TO THE CHURCH; AND IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN EVEN TO THE CHURCH, LET HIM BE TO YOU AS A GENTILE AND A TAX COLLECTOR.

*** NOW PAUL IN I CORINTHIANS 5 DEALT WITH ANOTHER SINNING BROTHER BEYOND THIS ONE TALKED ABOUT IN II CORINTHIANS 1, THE ONE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TODAY.**

**** NOW APPARENTLY MOST OF THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS WERE BEHIND WHAT PAUL SAID, TO DISCIPLINE THIS MAN, THE MAJORITY. IN OTHER WORDS NOT EVERYONE WAS BEHIND THE DISCIPLINE, BUT DISCIPLINE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS VOTED ON, IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS TO BE DONE OUT OF OBEDIENCE AND LOVE.**

***** I MEAN THE CHURCH IS NOT A PLACE OF PUBLIC OPINION POLLS AND THE MAJORITY IS RIGHT, THE CHURCH IS A CHRISTOCRACY WITH CHRIST AS THE HEAD AND THE GREAT SHEPHERD, AND HE RULES THROUGH HIS WORD WHICH IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY UNDERSHEPHERDS THAT SUBMIT TO CHRIST AND THE CONGREGATION SUBMITTING TO THEM.**

****** WELL, THANKFULLY THE MAJORITY OR MOST OF THE CONGREGATION WAS BEHIND THIS DISCIPLINE TRANSLATED PUNISHMENT AND THERE WAS NO MUTINY.**

2. AND THE DISCIPLINE WAS SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN REPENTANCE, THAT IS ASSUMED BECAUSE OF WHAT PAUL SAYS IN V. 7. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 7. NOW IT APPEARS FROM THE FIRST FEW WORDS OF V. 7, "SO THAT ON THE CONTRARY", NOT EVERYONE WAS ON BOARD IN FORGIVING THIS BROTHER AT THAT TIME, A MINORITY OF PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT THE MAN WHO HAD SINNED NEEDED TO SUFFER FURTHER BEFORE BEING RESTORED.

*** BUT PAUL WRITES ON THE CONTRARY, FORGIVE AND COMFORT HIM NOW.**

**** PAUL REGARDED THE PUNISHMENT AS SUFFICIENT AND PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THE MAN HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO REPENTANCE, IT WAS NOW TIME TO FORGIVE AND COMFORT HIM.**

***** BELOVED, DISCIPLINE THAT HAS ITS DESIRED EFFECT– REPENTANCE, MUST BE RESPONDED TO WITH APPROPRIATE ACTION. AND THIS ADMONITION AGREES WITH WHAT JESUS SAID IN LUKE 17:3B: “IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, REBUKE HIM; AND IF HE REPENTS, FORGIVE HIM.”**

****** AND BASICALLY THE ACTION OF FORGIVENESS WOULD LEAD TO RESTORATION OF THAT MAN TO FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH.**

1. AND TO COMFORT HIM MEANT TO ENCOURAGE, TO STRENGTHEN, TO COME ALONGSIDE HIM, THE CORINTHIANS WERE TO RESTORE SUCH A ONE IN THE SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS, QUOTE GALATIANS 6:1.

*** SO WITH GRACE AND ENCOURAGEMENT, THIS MAN NEEDED TO BE RESTORED.**

**** AND PAUL HAD A GREAT LOVE AND CONCERN FOR THIS MAN THAT PUBLICLY EMBARRASSED HIM, THAT IF HE WASN'T RESTORED, HE MIGHT BE OVERWHELMED WITH EXCESSIVE SORROW.**

***** AND THE WORD TRANSLATED OVERWHELMED OR SWALLOWED UP DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE LIT. MEANS TO DROWN, TO SWALLOW UP, TO DEVOUR OR DESTROY.**

****** AND THE WORD PICTURE HERE IN ITS USE WOULD BE WAVES OR WATERS WHICH SWALLOW UP PEOPLE AND OBJECTS.**

2. AND PAUL'S LOVING HEART IS THAT THE BROTHER WOULD BE SWALLOWED UP, DROWNED IN SORROW.

*** AND NOT ONLY THE SORROW OF HIS PUNISHMENT, BUT ALSO THE SORROW CAUSED BY THE CORINTHIANS REJECTION OF HIM.**

**** AND BELOVED, HERE'S THE TRUTH, AFTER SORROW HAS DONE ITS CONVICTING WORK AND BRINGS REPENTANCE, IT IS TO BE REPLACED BY THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS!**

***** GOD DOES NOT WANT BELIEVERS TO BE DROWNED IN GRIEF CAUSED BY SIN THAT HAS BEEN REPENTED OF, OUR LORD WANTS THE JOY, THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS TO ENCOURAGE US.**

****** SO PAUL COMMUNICATES FORGIVENESS AND COMFORT AND IN V. 8, PAUL ENCOURAGES THAT THE CORINTHIANS REAFFIRM THEIR LOVE FOR THIS**

BROTHER. SO LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR THIRD POINT, THE REAFFIRMATION.

III. THE REAFFIRMATION, (READ V. 8)

A. NOW BECAUSE PAUL DID NOT WANT THIS MAN TO DROWN IN SORROW, HE URGED, HE LIT. BEGGED, HE BESEECHED THE CORINTHIANS TO REAFFIRM THEIR LOVE FOR HIM, THIS MAN, THIS BROTHER.

*** AND THE WORD REAFFIRM OR AFFIRM IN THE GREEK MEANS TO MAKE VALID, TO CONFIRM PUBLICLY OR SOLEMNLY OR TO RATIFY.**

**** AND THIS GREEK VERB IS USED IN ONLY ONE OTHER PLACE IN THE N.T, IN GALATIANS 3:15 WHERE IT SPEAKS OF FORMALLY RATIFYING A COVENANT.**

***** AND ITS USE HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 2:8 APPEARS TO BE A PUBLIC RESTORATION IN LOVE TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH.**

****** AND THEY COULD PUBLICLY AND THEN INDIVIDUALLY CONFIRM THEIR LOVE FOR HIM THIS WAY.**

1. AND NOTE THAT THE GREEK WORD FOR LOVE HERE IS AGAPE, THE LOVE THAT IS SACRIFICIAL, THE LOVE OF

CHOICE BY THE WILL, THE LOVE OF ACTION, NOT OF EMOTION OR SENTIMENTALISM OR GOOD FEELINGS.

*** AND AGAPE LOVE IS ESSENTIAL FOR FORGIVENESS. FOR UNDERSTAND, AT ITS CORE, UNFORGIVENESS IS A LACK OF LOVE, IT IS A FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR FORGIVENESS IN CHRIST THAT WAS NOT EARNED BUT GIVEN. FORGIVENESS IS NOT EARNED BUT GIVEN OUT OF SOVEREIGN GRACE AND LOVE. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WORTHINESS.**

**** AND IF YOU ARE A TRUE BELIEVER TODAY, YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AN UNPAYABLE DEBT AND HOW CAN WE HAVE THE AUDACITY OF NOT FORGIVING LIKE THE MAN IN MATTHEW 18, THE SLAVE WHO WAS FORGIVEN AN UNPAYABLE DEBT AND WOULD NOT FORGIVE HIS FELLOW SLAVE OF A MINUTE DEBT IN COMPARISON.**

***** AND ALWAYS THE MOTIVATION FOR US TO FORGIVE IS OUR OWN FORGIVENESS THROUGH LOVE, QUOTE EPHESIANS 4:32.**

****** COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 –**

V. 12 - SO, AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN OF GOD, HOLY AND BELOVED, PUT ON A HEART OF COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE;

V. 13 – BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING EACH OTHER, WHOEVER HAS A COMPLAINT AGAINST ANYONE; JUST AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO SHOULD YOU.

V. 14 – BEYOND ALL THESE THINGS PUT ON LOVE, WHICH IS THE PERFECT BOND OF UNITY.

2. AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT FORGIVING LOVE IS LIKE OIL THAT LUBRICATES, LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL AND WITHOUT IT, CHURCHES ARE TORN, FRAGMENTED AND SPLIT.

*** AND CHURCHES LIKE OURS THAT PRACTICE CHURCH DISCIPLINE MUST ALSO RESTORE AND REAFFIRM LOVE TO PENITENT BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHICH IS A GREAT DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE.**

**** AND WITH THAT ADMONITION BY PAUL, HE GIVES THE CORINTHIANS SOME LOVING REMINDERS IN VV. 9-11, WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE REMINDER. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.**

IV. THE REMINDER, (READ V. 9)

A. NOW ONE REASON THAT PAUL WROTE THE STERN LETTER, THE SEVERE LETTER BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS, WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT HERE IN V. 9 IN REFERENCE TO I WROTE TO YOU, WAS FOR THE PURPOSE THAT HE MIGHT PUT THE CORINTHIANS TO THE TEST AND SEE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE OBEDIENT IN ALL THINGS.

*** AND THEY PASSED THE TEST IN APPLYING CHURCH DISCIPLINE, SO THE QUESTION WAS, WOULD THEY NOW BE OBEDIENT TO THE LORD IN THIS AREA AND ALL AREAS?**

**** I MEAN WHETHER THE CORINTHIANS WERE WILLING TO FORGIVE WOULD BE A REAL TEST IN THIS CONTEXT OF WHETHER THEIR HEARTS WERE RIGHT WITH GOD.**

***** SO PAUL PUT THE CORINTHIANS TO THE TEST TO SEE IF THEY WOULD DISCIPLINE AND FORGIVE. AND THEY DID THE HARD WORK OF CONFRONTING SIN AND WE WILL SEE IN CHAPTER 7:12-15 THAT THEY WILL GRACIOUSLY FORGIVE AND RESTORE.**

****** AND PAUL MODELED FORGIVENESS AND REMINDS THE CHURCH OF THIS IN V. 10. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 10. NOW PAUL WAS A MODEL, AN EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS, FOR IN ESSENCE WHAT HE SAID IN

V.10 BY THE GRACE OF GOD WAS, I, THE OFFENDED, DID IT (FORGAVE HIM) AND YOU CAN DO IT TOO.

*** AND FOR SURE PAUL HAD ALREADY FORGIVEN HIM, IF, HE ADDED, I HAVE FORGIVEN ANYTHING. IT IS TO SAY ONCE AGAIN HE DOWNPLAYED THE OFFENSE AGAINST HIMSELF.**

**** WHY? FOR HIS PRIMARY BURDEN AND CONCERN WAS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP TO BE RESTORED AND FOR THEM TO BE LOVE IN ACTION BY FORGIVENESS, FOR THE LORD TO BLESS THIS CHURCH.**

***** THEREFORE, HE FORGAVE PRIMARILY FOR THE CORINTHIANS SAKE AT THE END OF V. 10.**

****** HOWEVER THERE WAS ANOTHER MOTIVE, THE LAST PHRASE IN V. 10, "IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST."**

1. AND IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST LIT. MEANS IN THE FACE OF CHRIST, WITH CHRIST WATCHING, WITH CHRIST LOOKING ON.

*** SO WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE LORD LOOKING ON? YOU FORGIVE, FOR HE HAS FORGIVEN YOU.**

**** AS CHARLES HODGE SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS AND I QUOTE: "NO MAN CAN BE SEVERE**

IN HIS JUDGMENT WHO FEELS THAT THE MILD EYES OF CHRIST ARE FIXED UPON HIM.” (END QUOTE)

***** SO PAUL FORGIVES FOR THE CORINTHIANS SAKE AND HIS LORD’S SAKE.**

****** AND REMEMBER JESUS IS ALWAYS WATCHING US, AND WE LIVE IN HIS PRESENCE CONSTANTLY. AND THIS CAN BE A GREAT MOTIVATION FOR FORGIVENESS AND OBEDIENCE IN ANY AREA. LIVING IN CORAM DEO, (A LATIN TERM) IN VAIN.**

2. IN FACT R.C. SPROUL SAID AND I QUOTE, “THE BIG IDEA OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS CORAM DEO. CORAM DEO CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. THIS PHRASE LITERALLY REFERS TO SOMETHING THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE PRESENCE OF, OR BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD. TO LIVE CORAM DEO IS TO LIVE LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD. TO LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHATEVER WE ARE DOING AND WHEREVER WE ARE DOING IT, WE ARE ACTING UNDER THE GAZE OF GOD.” (END QUOTE)

*** AND BELOVED WHEN WE LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST-GOD AND ARE AWARE OF IT, IT LEADS TO OBEDIENCE TO GOD AND CERTAINLY TO FORGIVING OTHERS. WHAT A PROFOUND TRUTH – CORAM DEO.**

**** AND SPECIFICALLY WHEN WE LIVE THAT WAY AND FORGIVE IN THIS CONTEXT, SATAN WILL NOT GET A Foothold IN OUR LIVES, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR FINAL VERSE WITH A FINAL REMINDER FROM PAUL. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.**

C. READ V. 11. NOW ANOTHER REASON TO FORGIVE AND RESTORE THIS MAN WHO HAD REPENTED, WAS SO THAT, IN ORDER THAT, A HINA PURPOSE CLAUSE IN THE GREEK, SO THAT SATAN DOESN'T GET AN ADVANTAGE, SO THAT SATAN DOESN'T GET THE UPPER HAND IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE.

*** AND AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT PLAYS RIGHT INTO THE DEVIL'S HANDS AND GIVES HIM THE LEVERAGE, THE OPEN DOOR HE NEEDS TO DIVIDE, SPLIT AND SPLINTER A CHURCH.**

**** AND BELIEVERS DARE NOT BE IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES, HIS SCHEMES, HIS METHODS, HIS PLOYS, HIS WAYS THAT DIVIDE CHRISTIANS AND DESTROY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.**

***** BELIEVER, SATAN IS SLICK, HE IS DECEITFUL, HE USES LIES AND TRICKS US. HE USES SMOKE AND MIRRORS TO LEAD US ASTRAY AND TO TRAP US.**

****** THEREFORE WE MUST APPLY EPHESIANS 6:11 (QUOTE IT).**

1. IN ADDITION WE ARE NOT TO GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY IN ANY WAY, BUT ESPECIALLY IN NOT FORGIVING IN THE CHURCH, EPHESIANS 4:27.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) THE BIBLICAL WORK OF DISCIPLINING THOSE IN THE CHURCH WHO LIVE IN UNREPENTANT SIN AND RESTORING THOSE WHO REPENT IS AN IMPORTANT TEST OF A CHURCH'S LOVE FOR THE LORD.

*** HOWEVER, SATAN'S DESIRE AND GOAL FOR THE CHURCH IS AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT WHICH BRINGS DISCORD, VENGEANCE, BITTERNESS AND DESTROYS UNITY.**

**** AND IF SIN IS CONFRONTED IN A CHURCH, SATAN WANTS IT TO BE DONE PROUDLY, HARSHLY WITHOUT GRACE AND MERCY.**

***** BUT BOTH FAILING TO DEAL WITH SIN IN LOVE AND FAILING TO FORGIVE REPENTANT SINNERS CAN DESTROY A CHURCH.**

****** MAY WE NOT ALLOW SATAN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE IN THESE AREAS, MAY WE NOT BE IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES.**

(2) AND MAY FORGIVENESS FLOW FROM OUR HEARTS TODAY AS IT FLOWED FROM GOD'S HEART IN A MAGNANIMOUS WAY IN FORGIVING US.

*** BELIEVER, WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AN UNPAYABLE DEBT. HOW CAN WE NOT FORGIVE OTHERS. REMEMBER FORGIVENESS IS NOT EARNED OR NONE OF US WOULD BE FORGIVEN, IT IS GIVEN FREELY THROUGH GOD'S SOVEREIGN SAVING GRACE AND LOVE.**

***** IF THERE ARE PEOPLE WE REFUSE TO FORGIVE, DESPITE THEIR REPENTANCE AND PLEAS, WE HAD BETTER CONSIDER WHETHER WE ARE OF THE FAITH.**

**** CHARLES SPURGEON SAID "YOU ARE NOTHING BETTER THAN DECEITFUL HYPOCRITES IF YOU HARBOR IN YOUR MINDS A SINGLE UNFORGIVING THOUGHT. THERE ARE SOME SINS WHICH MAY BE IN THE HEART, AND YET YOU MAY BE SAVED. BUT YOU CANNOT BE SAVED UNLESS YOU ARE FORGIVING. IF WE DO NOT CHOOSE TO FORGIVE, WE CHOOSE TO BE DAMNED."**

****** I CLOSE WITH EPHESIANS 4:30-32. (QUOTE THEM AND PRAY)**