

## **The Book of 2 Corinthians #6 - 2 Cor. 2:6-17**

Christ in the gospel has different effects on different people

### **I. The Gospel of Christ – A Healing Reconciling Force (Verses 6 – 11)**

- A. As the offender has repented – the gospel calls for forgiveness
  - 1. First this means the release of all current discipline
    - a. Majority of church had participated in this (v. 6 – the many)
  - 2. Necessary not only for offender but health of church (vs. 7, 9-11)
  - 3. Word for forgiveness here emphasizes freeness of the act
    - a. If we don't forgive not good for us – Matthew 6:12, 14, 15
- B. The gospel then calls for the church to comfort him (V. 7 with 1:3-8)
  - 1. This comfort should not happen while offender remains in sin
- C. The gospel then calls for them to confirm their love (V. 8)
  - 1. Confirm is legal term- Perhaps calling for session decision
- D. This is done so offender not swallowed up in too much sorrow (V. 7)
  - 1. Must be careful not to give impression of too much harshness (V. 11)
- E. Verse 9 may again be response of Paul against charge of fickleness
- F. Verse 11 is word play – “We are not unmindful of Satan's mind”
  - 1. When one device doesn't work – Satan will use another

### **II. The Gospel of Christ – A Triumphant Power (Verses 12 – 14)**

- A. Vs. 12, 13- Paul returns to explain his actions and movements
- B. See in these verses Paul's life is the gospel- 1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Cor. 5:9-11
- C. Verse 12, 13 gives us very interesting insight into Paul's humanity
  - 1. Even in midst of great success Paul's spirit is uneasy- “No relaxation”
  - 2. “In my spirit” – Same Greek as assurance scripture – Romans 8:16
- D. Verse 14 – Reference to unusual Greek word – “Triumph” – Col. 2:15
  - 1. Refers to conquering general in victory procession with captives
  - 2. There are three main ways this form of word is understood
    - a. Causitive sense – “God causes us to triumph” – KJV
    - b. Transitive sense – “God leads us in triumph” – NAS, NIV, ESV
    - c. Neutral sense “God triumphs over us” – No major versions
  - 3. God has triumphed over Paul – so now Paul participates in triumph
  - 4. End of verse 14 refers to the gospel of Christ as fragrance – Jn 12:3
    - a. Some think reference to general's procession – flowers/sacrifices
    - b. Though gospel has varied effect on people-always sweet to God

### **III. The Gospel of Christ – A Divider of Humanity (Verses 14 - 17)**

- A. Vs. 15, 16 – Either fragrance leading to life or leading to death
- B. Always succesful in that it fulfills God's purpose – Is. 55:9-11
  - 1. Divides humanity into those who are “saved” and those “Perishing”
    - a. “Natural effect” is to save; “Accidental effect” is to harden
- C. V. 16 – Question we should ask – “Who is sufficient for these things?”
  - 1. In one sense the answer is noone – We cannot give life to the dead
  - 2. But in another sense v. 17 answers – Those who preach true gospel
- D. V. 17- Ministers will be judged on their faithful handling of word of God
  - 1. We cannot determine the effect – Isaiah 49:5
  - 2. “Corrupt” means to “water down” or do it for money; hucksters
  - 3. Paul does it “sincerely” – Greek word – “judged by the sun”