

The Book of 2 Corinthians #5 (1:23 – 2:11)

Chapter division should occur at end of 1:22 instead of at verse 24

I. First Let Us Notice Some Things About Discipline and Leadership

- A. Paul didn't come to Corinth because there were open discipline issues
 - 1. This would cause their time together to be one of sorrow – 2:1 – 3
 - a. So instead Paul sent letter to them on how to handle situations
- B. This passage teaches us that discipline is necessary at times
 - 1. Hinders Paul from reuniting with Corinthians – shouldn't avoid it
- C. Discipline itself is not a matter of joy- but of sorrow and grief- 2:4
 - 1. Even often involves tears on behalf of those administering discipline
- D. Discipline is for purpose of restoration and should not go further - 2:6-8
 - 1. This restoration should lead us to joy and love
 - 2. Temptation is for us to go beyond – Ephesians 6:4
- E. Need to be careful to not take position of lordship over another's faith
 - 1. Verse 24–If anyone should have been able to – it would be Paul here
 - a. He was not only teacher – but father – I Corinthians 4:15
 - 2. We take lordship over someone's faith in different ways
 - a. When we bind them in areas of conscience – Romans 14:1 - 8
 - b. When we bind them to traditions instead of the Bible- Mark 7:6-8
 - c. When we use position for gain instead of as servants- I Pet. 5:1-3
 - 3. But this doesn't mean that we don't have right to administer discipline
- F. Instead it falls especially upon leaders to be helpers of joy- 1:24
 - 1. Christ was this (John 15:11) Apostles (I John 1:4)
 - 2. Christian life is supposed to be a life of joy- Romans 14:17; Phil. 4:4
 - a. No one has more reason to be joyful- we are forgiven
 - 3. Leaders help Christian's joy by reminding them of spiritual position
 - a. I Corinthians 3:21 – 23; Psalm 19:8; Isaiah 50:4
 - 4. Also can help by reminding it is our duty to rejoice- Philippians 3:1
 - 5. Phillip was example of a "helper of joy" to Eunoch- Acts 8:39
 - 6. Not just leaders – but all Christians can help one another's joy
- G. Leaders should always remind people their standing is by faith-1:24
 - 1. In this verse Paul interchanges joy and faith (faith, joy, faith)
 - a. Our joy is dependant upon our faith – Romans 14:17 (order)
 - b. Righteousness, peace then joy- Rom. 5:1-3; 15:13; I Pet. 1:8, 9
 - 2. We see that the original fall was a result of lack of faith
 - a. They doubted the word of God – "Ye shall die"
 - 3. The believer's faith is a tremendously strong thing
 - a. I Peter 1:5, 9; I John 5:4; Luke 22:32; Ephesians 6:16
- H. Our options are to take lordship over faith or be helpers of joy-I Pet. 5:3

II. We See Great Part of Emotions in a Christian's Life Here

- A. Paul is very logical person but uses several emotional terms here
 - 1. Word for Sorrow is used 7 times in first 6 verses
 - 2. Word for joy found two times
 - 3. Verse 4- two words that show great anguish (Tribulation & distress)
 - a. Paul is also seen as one who cries – Acts 20:19; Philippians 3:19
- B. Christian life is not a life void of emotions