

Paul had no rest in his spirit, because he couldn't find Titus in Troas, so he left and went straight to Macedonia. Some say Paul acted on his emotions, here, but I believe he was "Spirit-led" and was at the right place at the right timing.

To show that his abrupt work there in Troas was not a lost cause, to the gospel of Christ: he found there a thriving Christian community on his way back from this very journey (Acts 20:6,7; see also II Timothy 4:13 {Paul stayed in Troas before his martyrdom}).

Now thanks be unto God (II Corinthians 2:14). Paul was so excited and burst out in thanksgiving.

It is only when we come to ch. vii. 5,6 that we learn the circumstance which gave him such intense relief, namely, the arrival of Titus with good news from Corinth about the treatment of the offender and the manner in which the first letter had been received. ¹

2. Paul, in his giving of thanks in II Corinthians 2:14-17, names a people-group that are a sweet fragrance unto God of Christ. Who are they?

As ministers unto God of Christ, we sincerely present the gospel to the lost. *To the one we are the savour* (fragrance) *of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life* (II Corinthians 2:15,16).

SECOND STUDY

PAUL'S VISIT POSTPONEMENT CONTINUATION (II Corinthians 2:1-4)

II Corinthians 2:1-4 is a continuation of II Corinthians 1:23.

And I wrote (II Corinthians 2:3). This is a reference to the first epistle to the Corinthians (not this Book of II Corinthians).

When Paul comes to them, he wants to hear reports that cause him to rejoice: that they might have joy together. Having confidence that they are following the Lord's teaching's makes him very happy (II Corinthians 2:3).

1. From II Corinthians 2:4:

(a) In what state of heart and emotions was Paul when he wrote to the Corinthian Church? _____

(b) Was Paul trying to bring the Church grief?

(c) Then what reason does Paul give for writing this to them? _____

FORGIVENESS FOR THE OFFENDER (II Corinthians 2:5-11)

Paul is reminded at this point of his letter concerning the treatment of the incestuous offender, covered in his first letter to these believers, and

1. The Pulpit Commentary, Volume xix, Second Corinthians, p. 39.

brings the subject back up again with new revelation (II Corinthians 2:5).

Paul says concerning this:

“ I will not say outright that he has not grieved me, but all of you, because I do not wish to bear too hard on him,” (comp. 1 Thess. ii. 9; 2 Thess. iii. 8), “but I will say he has grieved you and me alike to some extent.” The phrase, “*in part*,” occurs also in Rom. xi. 25. ¹

Sufficient to such a man is this punishment (II Corinthians 2:6). We do not know exactly what the punishment was, but we do know he was excommunicated from the Church; and handed over to Satan . . . *for the destruction of the flesh* . . . to bring him to repentance (I Corinthians 5:5).

It would be good here, for us to take notice that Paul refrained from naming names.

Paul, now, decides it is time to show mercy to this man who evidently repents (although the Scripture is not clear on this, but it does hint). I don't believe Paul would have come to this conclusion if the man was continuing in his sin.

1. What kind of actions does Paul give, in II Corinthians 2:7,8, for the Corinthian Church to carry out concerning this man caught in incest? _____

1. The Pulpit Commentary, volume xix, Second Corinthians, p. 37.

Paul said, in II Corinthians 2:10, If the Corinthian Church would unanimously forgive this man, he would also.

2. In II Corinthians 2:11, Paul gives his reason for suggesting the Church give this man the same mercy Paul himself is willing to give. What is his reason? _____

Paul was able to do this “in Christ,” because he and they were . . . *not ignorant of Satan's devices* (II Corinthians 2:10b; 2:11).

Paul preaches the gospel of grace.

Satan . . . an advantage of us (II Corinthians 2:11).

One of our key defenses against Satan's attack is being aware of the enemy's continual effort to gain an advantage over us and to lead us away from sincere devotion to Christ. ¹

TITUS' NEWS IS CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING
(II Corinthians 2:12-17)

A door was opened for Paul to preach the gospel in Troas, so he visited there before going on to Macedonia.

1. According to II Corinthians 2:13, What happened to Paul in Troas? _____

1. The Full Life Study Bible, p. 1807, note.