

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2:1-11

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX788 NOVEMBER 18, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

Part 3

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Fellowship, Forgiveness, Discipline, Love, Grace

Introduction to the Text; **2nd Corinthians 2:1-11**

2Cor. 2:1-11

But I **determined** this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. :2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad - but the one who is made sorrowful by me? :3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. :4 For out of much **affliction** and **anguish** of heart I wrote to you, with many **tears**, not that you should be **grieved**, but that you might **know the love** which I have so abundantly for you. :5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe. :6 This punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority *is* sufficient for such a man, :7 so that, on the contrary, you *ought* rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. :8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love to him. :9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. :10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, :11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

SAYING YOU'RE SORRY

means much more than what we have come to think. According to God – saying you're sorry is serious business. – but why ? REPENTANCE

Because a real and true sorrow over our wrong doing is the prerequisite to maintaining Christian love and fellowship.

2Cor. 7:10 NIV

Godly **sorrow** brings **repentance** that *(results in)* leads to **salvation** and leaves **no regret**, but worldly sorrow brings death.

And for the man or woman who has lived a life of “**God-Neglect**” and has rejected “**His Gift of Eternal Life**” that He has Purchased – God pleads with them (you) and will up until the bitter end – But Why?

2Pet. 3:9b

The Lord is **not willing** that any should perish but that all should come to **repentance**.

It's His Nature to Reach Out to a Broken, Wandering World that is Lost in its Sin.

Rom. 5:8

But God **demonstrates** His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

and so we have looked at 2 of the 3 key ingredients that create an atmosphere for Christian restoration

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SAY YOU'RE SORRY

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) God's recipe for forgiveness

v. 4-5

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GOD'S RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

1a.) Is **Mercy**

v. 4a

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GOD'S RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

1b.) Is **Love**

v. 4b

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GOD'S RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

1c.) Is **Grace**

v. 5

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SAY YOU'RE SORRY

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2.) God's design for **restoration**

v. 6-8

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GOD'S DESIGN FOR RESTORATION

2a.) Is **Discipline**

v. 6

This **punishment** which was **inflicted** by the majority
is **sufficient** for such a man,

punishment / epi'ta'mee'ah - used only once (1) here in the N.T. originally the word was used to signify “The word means all the rights and privileges of a citizen of a country” even the just punishments applied to any citizen of the country - that too was considered a privilege.

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GOD'S DESIGN FOR RESTORATION

2b.) Is Repentance

v. 7

Part of True Repentance is owning your sin.
our self-centered decisions, selfish plans have harmed others – and that repenting of the sin means **'No Contest. No Conditions. No Excuses.'**

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GOD'S DESIGN FOR RESTORATION

2c.) Is Encouragement

v. 8

Therefore I **urge** you to **reaffirm** your love to Him.

Rom. 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Remembering What Verse 7 says is All Important.

The Holy Spirit will not be involved in, He will not be present in any acts, treatments, policies that are designed to produce condemnation.

Verse 7

...you ought rather to **forgive** and **comfort** him,
lest perhaps such a one be **swallowed** up with too much **sorrow**.

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SAY YOU'RE SORRY

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3.) God's evidence for salvation

v. 9-11

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GOD'S EVIDENCE FOR SALVATION

3a.) Is Obedience

v. 9

Verse 9

For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test,
(#1) whether you are obedient in all things.

“that I (Paul) might **put you (Church) to the test**”

Test: δοκιμή *dokime*, *dok-ee-may'*; trustworthiness. To match the word to the action. To transfer from theory to reality.

There is nothing like the church of Jesus Christ on earth.
Nothing can compare.

Every True Christian & True Church
Will be constantly engaged

Matt. 16:18b

I will build *(He's the carpenter)* My *(it's His)* church,
and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus Presides Over His Church Personally

A Christian must never forget where he has come from and a church must
never decide to act like the world

1Tim. 3:15b

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

The church is the earthly proprietor of the Word of God.

Paul, by being obedient himself to the Lord, created this “Holy Confrontation.”

(it was his ministry right – ordained by God & Paul’s love for them)

A godly confrontation was in order.

1Sam. 15:22

So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

Matthew 7:17-21

Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. :18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. :19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. :20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. :21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. :22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ :23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

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GOD’S EVIDENCE FOR SALVATION

3b.) Is Unity

v. 10

Verse 10

Now whom **you forgive** anything, **I** also **forgive**. For if indeed **I** have **forgiven** anything, **I** have **forgiven** that one **for your sakes** ((in the presence of Christ,))

**A Christian, a Church that lives in the reality of Christ's presence will strive to maintain Biblical Unity.
(truth must never be sacrificed on the altar of unity)**

Psa. 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

BUT THAT'S NOT EASY - - IT TAKES A CONSTANT EFFORT.

Church Life is a Huge Dynamic – It Will Always Be So.
It's in the dynamics of relationship that Jesus Christ is LORD.

Humble Submission or Bitter Division

Eph. 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another,
even as God in Christ **forgave** you.

I can always tell when a man or woman has been forgiven of great sin. They're humble. They are gracious and merciful and loving.

**When something is forgiven its not to be repeated.
We're to drop it and not hold it over them.**

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GOD'S EVIDENCE FOR SALVATION

3c.) Is Wisdom

v. 11

Verse 11

lest Satan should take **advantage** of us; for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.

Gal. 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

And with that restoration – wise, tender care – must be employed.

Jesus Christ Said Satan is a real actual individual.

As long as an issue is not settled – Satan has the upper hand.

Whenever church leadership fails to protect the flock – Satan sees an opening for an attack. – Satan wins the day.

James 4:7-8

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **:8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Let's keep very short accounts in our lives.

Settle an issue as soon as possible.

Eph. 4:26

"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **:27 nor give place to the devil.**

Jesus Put It This Way...

Luke 7:33-35

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, "He has a demon." **:34** The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" **:35 But wisdom is justified by all her children."**

It's not the salvation moment that is all important here and now. It is the relationship after salvation – the longing and the journey and the experience of Christ every-day and all-day until that-day comes when I awake in His likeness, when I stand before Him in glory.

Phil. 3:7-10

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, **that I may gain Christ** :9 **and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; :10 **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Psa. 27:3

Though an army may encamp against me, My heart **shall not fear**; Though war may rise against me, In this **I will be confident**. :4 One *thing I have desired* of the LORD, **That will I seek**: That **I may dwell** in the house of the LORD **All the days of my life**, To **behold the beauty** of the LORD, And to **inquire in His temple**.

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<
Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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