

2 Corinthians 2

1. What did Paul understand about being an apostle of Christ Jesus?

-That he was an apostle of Christ not of his own will, but only because of the will of God.

2. When we are saved by Christ, what is our part?

-Our only part is to say “Yes” to Christ, for He is the one who has done all of the work on the cross.

3. Even though no Christian is perfect, how does God see us?

-As holy people or saints.

4. Why does God see Christians as holy people or saints?

-Because of the blood of the Lord Jesus which covers us.

5. How do we share in the sufferings of Christ?

-Just as the Lord Jesus suffered because of sin, we also suffer because of sin.

6. When we suffer because of sin, whether it is our own sin or the sin of another, what is important to know?

-That our Christ has also suffered, and that He is with us in our suffering.

7. Why does God allow Christians to have difficulties in our lives?

-We have difficulties so that we do not depend on

ourselves, but depend on God.

8. Who alone can take difficulties, and turn them into blessings?

-Only God.

9. Who alone can take death, and turn it into eternal life?

-Only God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:12

12-Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.

-Are there many false teachers in this world?

-Yes.

-Why do false teachers teach?

-Some teach so that you can give your money to them.

-Some teach so that they will have power over the people they teach so that the people will follow them.

-False teachers will also teach that the true teachers are not teaching the truth.

-During the time of Paul, this was a big problem in the church at Corinth.

-It is still a big problem these days.

-How do we know if a teacher is a true teacher from God?

-A true teacher will treat others with respect and honesty.

-A true teacher will not make himself more important than others, but rather serve those whom they teach.

-A true teacher will not rely on his own worldly wisdom, but rather on the grace of God.

-God and Paul both wanted to protect the Corinthian Christians from false teachers.

-God wants to protect all Christians from false teachers.

-All Christians should be careful because there are many false teachers in the world.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:13-14

13-For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that,

14-as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

-God's teaching through Paul was very simple so that the people could understand.

-A false teacher may teach so that the people may not understand, and then, they will think that they need the false teacher so that they can properly live their lives.

-A false teacher may hide something in his teaching so that the people will think that they must depend on the false teacher to understand life and live their lives.

-A true teacher will teach very simply and clearly so that all of the people can understand.

-A true teacher will hide nothing so that the people will not depend on the teacher, but depend on God.

-What is a simple difference between a false teacher and a true teacher?

-A false teacher wants you to depend on him, but a true teacher wants you to depend on God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:15-16

15-Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice.

16-I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea.

-Paul wanted to visit the Christians in Corinth two more times.

-This is because Paul was their true teacher, and God had given him a huge heart for the Christians in Corinth.

-A true teacher of the Word of God will always have a huge heart for the people whom they are teaching.

-A false teacher will have more of a heart for himself than for those he is teaching.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:17

17-Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?

-When Paul made his plans to visit the Christians in Corinth two more times, he did not do this lightly or in a worldly manner, saying "Yes" and "No" at the same time.

-As we read in 1 Corinthians 4:19, Paul said this:

-“But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing.”

-Paul wanted to go to Corinth “very soon,” but God changed his plans.

-When we make our plans to do something, what must we understand?

-That God may change our plans.

-If God changes our plans, then it is for our best as well as for the best for those with us.

-When we make our plans, what should we say?

-“If the Lord is willing,” or “If it is the Lord’s will.”

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:18

18-But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.”

-Even if God changes our plans, God’s message or the Word of God never changes.

-Although the world and people are constantly changing, what never changes?

-God and His Word never change.

-This is because God and His Word are the same.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:19-20

19-For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

20-For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

-God does not change which means that His promises also do not change.

-What should be our response to our God and His promises which do not change?

-“Amen,” or “May it be so.”

-Because our God and His promises do not change, our response is simply to understand and to say “Yes” to all that He is and has promised to us.

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

21-Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,

22-set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

-Many Christians think that we must make ourselves stand strong in Christ.

-The Word of God, however, teaches us that it is God’s work to make us stand strong in Christ.

-What is our work as Christians to be able to stand strong

in Christ?

-To ask our God and to allow our God to be our strength.

-For all Christians, it is God alone who has anointed us, put His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts.

-In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed by pouring oil on their heads.

-In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ was also anointed when He began His teaching and before His death and burial.

-What are three meanings for being anointed?

-That people are chosen by God.

-That people are protected by God.

-That people have God as their strength.

-For all Christians, we are chosen by God, protected by God, and have God as our strength.

-For all Christians, God has put His seal of ownership on us.

-In the Old Testament, a seal was used to show people the owner as well as to protect what was under the seal.

-God has put His seal of ownership on all Christians to

show everyone that we belong to God as well as to protect us.

-For all Christians, God has put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

-When a man wants to marry a woman, he gives her an engagement ring to show his desire and promise to marry her.

-For all Christians, God has given us the Holy Spirit to show His desire and promise to give us eternal life.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:23

23-I call God as my witness—and I stake my life on it—that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth.

-Why did Paul not immediately return to Corinth?

-Because Paul did not want to shame the Christians who were living in sin.

-It may be that Paul was also hoping that the Christians in the church would call on God to help them with their problems.

-When there are problems in the church, what does God want us to do?

-We should talk with other Christians, but we must also pray and ask God to help us to solve the problems.

-When there are problems in the church, if we pray and ask God to help us to solve the problems, He will help us.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:24

24-Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.

-A true teacher will not act like a chief or a king and try to control the church.

-A true teacher will work alongside of the others in the church so that they will work together under Christ who alone is the Head of the church.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 2:1-2

1-So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you.

2-For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved?

-Even though Paul wanted to visit the Corinthians, he also did not want to grieve them.

-Why did Paul think that he would grieve them?

-It is always difficult to confront sin in people's lives.

-It is always difficult to talk about other people's sin.

-Is it wrong to confront sin or talk about other people's sin?

-No, for if sin is not resolved, then it will continue to hurt.

-What is important to understand when sin is confronted or talked about?

-We must understand that the purpose of confronting sin or talking about another's sin is to build people up and not to tear them down.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 2:3-4

3-I wrote as I did, so that when I came I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy.

4-For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

-Instead of visiting the church at Corinth, Paul wrote them another letter which we do not have as this letter no longer exists.

-Sometimes, when confronting or talking about another's

sin, it may be better to write a letter.

-Even though the church at Corinth had many problems, we see the love of Paul and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Christians in the church.

-If the problems of sin are not solved, then we will continue to have problems.

-It is the true love of Christ that wants to solve the problems of sin so that we can all live in freedom.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 2:5-7

5-If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely.

6-The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient.

7-Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

-It seems that one of the members of the church in Corinth had wronged Paul.

-When one in the family of Christ is wronged, it affects all of the family.

-Therefore, the wrong against Paul affected all of the members of the church in Corinth.

-In verse 6, we read that the other members of the church had corrected or punished the one who had wronged Paul.

-After a punishment or a correction for sin, what is the best for the one who was punished or corrected?

-If the person has admitted his guilt and has repented, then he or she should be forgiven and comforted.

-Forgiveness is very important in the churches of Christ because we all make mistakes.

-Because we all make mistakes, we must all ask for forgiveness when we make a mistake.

-In most, if not all of the religions in the world, there is little to no understanding of forgiveness.

-This is because the religions in the world do not believe that they have done wrong.

-If you do not believe that you have done wrong, do you ask for forgiveness?

-No.

-It is only when we understand that we have done wrong are we in a place where we can ask for forgiveness.

-To ask for forgiveness, however, is very difficult.

-Why is it difficult to ask for forgiveness?

-Because we must admit that we have done wrong.

-Because our flesh does not want to admit its sin.

-Because not wanting to forgive is very powerful.

-After Judas sinned by betraying Jesus, what did Judas do?

-He went out and hung himself/killed himself.

-After Peter denied Jesus three times, what did Peter do?

-He cried, and when Peter was in a boat and saw Christ on the shore of the lake, he jumped in the water and swam straight to Christ.

-What is the lesson of forgiveness?

-To fail to forgive will continue to hurt us.

-To forgive will heal us.

-There may be a time when we may be greatly hurt by another, and it will be difficult to forgive.

-God in us, however, is greater than any sin, and if we ask God in us to forgive another, He will do it.

-As Christians, we also forgive other Christians in order to comfort them so that they will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 2:8-9

8-I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

9-Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything.

-It is good to love once again those Christians who have repented of their sin.

-This is what our God wants us to do.

-As we learned in 2 Corinthians 2:4, Paul wrote another letter to the Corinthians which we do not have.

-In this letter which we do not have, it seems that God and Paul were urging the Corinthians to first correct and then to forgive one of their members.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

10-Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,

11-In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

-What is one of the biggest problems in the church?

-A lack of forgiveness.

-Here is what the Lord Jesus said about forgiveness to

His disciples in Luke 17:

3-“If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.

4- Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

-The words of the Lord Jesus teach us that we MUST forgive those who repent.

-When Paul writes, “Anyone you forgive, I also forgive,” what is he saying?

-Here, Paul is saying that the decision of the entire church is his decision as well, and that the forgiveness of the church is his forgiveness as well.

-If the one in the church who had sinned did not repent, then Satan would have won this battle.

-If Paul or the Christians in the church had not forgiven this Christian, then Satan would have won this battle.

-Satan uses a lack of forgiveness to hurt God's people.

-It is when we forgive our fellow Christians that Satan loses the battle.