

2 Corinthians 2:1-17

2:1 – It would appear that among the many charges against Paul by the false teachers was the charge that he was a pastoral tyrant that dominated the church for personal gain or personal power. Paul explains this is not the case. The third letter (between First and Second Corinthians) that he sent had caused pain

2:2 – Paul personal joy (sense of accomplishment, sense of fulfillment, successfully running the race, etc.) is directly connected to the Corinthians faith in Christ, growth in Christ, fruitful maturity and relationship with Paul the Apostle in Christ.

- Philippians 1:25 -
- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 –
- 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 – Paul could only experience joy through their repentance

2:3 – Paul wrote a third letter instead of making another painful personal visit.

Paul wanted his next visit to be a visit of fellowship and rejoicing. Not one of correction and discipline which would have surely led to an intensification of the rebellion against Paul and the division of the church.

2:4 – This letter Paul wrote is a letter between First and Second Corinthians that we no longer have a copy. It is mentioned again in:

- 2 Corinthians 7:8 – “Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it”
- 2 Corinthians 7:12 – “So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.”

The origin of this letter involved some situation that included anguish and tears which were experienced by Paul, and likely, also many of the Corinthians.

When the letter Paul wrote in anguish and tears was received by the Corinthians it produced grief, anguish or pain in the Corinthians. Yet Paul’s purpose was not to be vindictive or to strike back, but instead it was to bring the Corinthians back and let them understand the depth of his love.

2:5 – Verses 5-11 concern the issue of a person who has offended or some individual Corinthian identified as a wrongdoer.

Frequently, this wrongdoer is considered to be the sinful man in 1 Cor. 5. But, this concept has been rejected mainly because that was an issue in First Corinthians and not in the painful letter Paul is referring to. Instead it appears the man in the wrong was a man who had insulted and attacked Paul. Likely, one of the leaders of the opposition party who was either a member of the Corinthian church or possibly a traveling teacher.

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2:7 –

2:8 –

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2:10 –

2:11 –

2:12 –

2:13 – Paul's discussion of his itinerary into Macedonia breaks off here, but will resume in the exact flow of thought in 7:5

2:14 –

2:15 –

2:16 –

2:17 –