

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 4

Rebuke, Forgiveness, and Restoration to Fellowship

22 May 2023

Vs 1 Paul determined that he was not going to rebuke the Church at Corinth like he did in his first letter.

Vs 2 Paul didn't want to make them sorry. He didn't get pleasure from rebuking them.

Vs 3 Paul's letter is to "**You all.**" The church is one body. When one member suffers, all the members suffer. When one member is honored, all the members rejoice (1 Cor. 11:26).

Vs 4 This church needed to be rebuked and corrected, but it grieved Paul to have to do it. Because he loved them, it was necessary for him to discipline them. He did it from a right heart and spirit.

Vs 6 A man has corrected his error and stopped sinning. That is sufficient. The church must stop the punishment, stop the correction, stop the rebuke, and move on.

Vs 7 Forgiveness and restoration is the goal. We don't want a repentant brother to quit because we won't forgive and let it go.

Vs 8 Love for the repentant brother or sister will lead you to restore fellowship with them. If you don't love that person, you'll only want to rebuke them and get rid of them.

Vs 9 How you deal with a sinning brother or sister will prove whether you are obedient in all things.

10-11 When you refuse to forgive, you allow Satan to gain the advantage over you, your church, and the one needing forgiveness.

"...for we are not ignorant of his devices."

- Satan wants you to sin in a way that costs your fellowship in the church.
- Satan wants the church to do one of two things:
 - Allow that sin to abide in the church without correcting it.
 - This allows the sin to corrupt the whole church until destroyed.
 - Or—he wants the church to exercise church discipline in a final and permanent way, never restoring the repentant sinner.
 - Satan gets victory in the life of the castaway and in the church conduct (unbiblical shunning).

12-13 ***"I came...to preach Christ's gospel."*** The gospel we proclaim is not ours, but Christ's. ***"I found not rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother."*** Caring for others affects you and can be a burden.

Vs 14 Be thankful knowing that God will cause you to triumph in the end.

God ***"maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."*** People in every place you go ought to be able to see that Christ lives in you.

Vs 15 God receives a sweet savour (He enjoys it) when our testimony is proper toward the saved and the unsaved.

Vs 16 ***"To the one* (the saved) ***we are the savour of death."*** We die daily (suffering, affliction, heartache, burdens). This encourages and strengthens other believers when they go through the same.**

"...to the other* (the unsaved) ***the savour of life." We talk to the lost about life in Jesus Christ, eternal life, abundant life, joy of sins forgiven, and the hope of everlasting glory. This savour gives the lost person a desire for the life they see in the believer.**

“And who is sufficient for these things?” We are not sufficient, but God is (2 Cor 3:5). God can make me a good testimony to Him, to the lost, and to the saved.

Vs 17 ***“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God.”*** Avoid bibles that change the words of God by adding, subtracting, or altering the bible to fit a personal doctrine or belief (NIV, NASB, NKJB, Good News for Modern Man, ASV, etc.). Stick with the tried-and-true, inerrant King James Bible.

“But as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” Always remember that every word you speak for God or about God is also spoken in the sight of God. Be sincere. Aim to say what God wants you to say, aspiring to please Him and be a help to the lost and the saved.