

## LESSON THREE

### 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5 - 17

The sorrow caused by the wrong doer was not just felt by Paul, it hurt the entire church. Paul was satisfied that the man had repented due to the discipline the church exercised on him, and that now he should be restored to their fellowship. He encourages the church to forgive, comfort, and confirm their love toward him (vs 5-10). Otherwise, he warns, Satan could gain an advantage over him and the church (vs 11). Paul then explains that he was so anxious to receive information from Titus that he was unable to take advantage of an opportunity in Troas. Not finding Titus there, he leaves for Macedonia where Titus apparently catches up with him and gives him the wonderful information about the Corinthian church and their obedience (vs 12-13). The apostle then expresses in strong terms his gratitude to God who always leads him into triumph (vs 14-17).

#### **KEY PHRASES:**

1. **“Confirm”** (kuroo) - Validate
2. **Majority** (pleiones) - can either mean “the many” or “the whole group”. Has been used in other passages to describe the community as a whole (Rom 12:5, and 1 Cor. 10:17).
3. **“test”** (dokime) - metal tested with fire.
4. **Satan and his devices** (vs. 11) - His expert methods. He has plans, purposes, and schemes.
5. **“I had no relief”** - no rest
6. **“Triumph in Christ”** vs 14 - Paul uses an illustration of a Roman Triumph. After victory the General and his army would be honored with a Roman Triumph. This is a parade of the General, the army, and they displayed the spoils and captives that were taken. Great amounts of incense would be burned. This aroma was sweet and meant victory and honor to the army, but it was repulsive and meant certain death to the prisoners.
7. **“What kind of ministry is sufficient for these things?”** - (vs 16) What kind of ministry is adequate for such a task? Paul says “Ours is”
8. **“Corrupting the word of God”** (vs 17) - Perverting and changing the gospel.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Paul now gives two more reasons how he endured the sharp criticism.

1. We must have a compassionate heart. How to treat penitent brethren.
2. We must have a conquering faith (vs 12-17).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Who really caused the sorrow at Corinth (vs 5)?
  
2. Who exercised the discipline toward the wrong doer?
  
3. Why doesn't church discipline seem to work as well today as it did in this example?
  
4. After he repented, how was the church to treat this man?
  
5. How could Satan gain an advantage if they did not confirm their love to him?
  
6. Despite all the pain and anguish and the unwarranted criticism they caused him, what was Paul's motive behind his actions?
  
7. In view of the Roman Triumph, explain verse 16a.
  
8. How is Paul's ministry sufficient (vs 16b - 17)?
  
9. Explain how some were "peddling" the word of God.
  
10. How was Paul "testing" the Corinthians (vs. 9)?