

1 **II Corinthians 2**

Avon Park Holiness Campmeeting
Feb 7, 2012

2 **The Place of II Corinthians**

- In the shadow of 'grander' theology
- There is no other epistle which reveals the heart of the apostle Paul as intimately
- 11:28-29

3

Chapter Titles

1. Comfort and Confidence
2. Aroma
3. Faces
4. Tested Vessels
5. Compelling Love
6. Trials and Temple
7. Godly Sorrow

8. Call to Give
9. Godlike Giving

10. Proper Perceptions
11. Apostle's Defense
12. Vision and Thorn
13. Test Yourselves

4 **II Cor 1 – Paragraphs**

- 1:1-3 Greeting – full of theology Apostle, Timothy, Holy Church, Grace, Peace,
- 1:3-7 God's Comfort (in *thlipsis*)
- 1:8-11 Paul's Concern/(death sentence)
- 1:12-14 Paul's Confidence (boast)

- 1:15-22 Paul's Consistency (Yes/Amen)
- 1:21-22 God's Confirmation (sealed)

5 **Survey of Book**

- Observed –
 - Means to an End 13:10
 - Various means – prayer, exhortation (1:23)
 - Prepares us by making a general statement and supports it (1:3-14 < examples)
 - Comfort* is an on-going ministry in the Body
 - He is our “Yes” (1:17-20 < 1:24)

6 **The Comfort of God**

- Behind everything is a merciful Father
- He has sent Jesus (The Apostle) who is the only Yes for Life, the Face of the Father –
 - He can take every affliction and make us ‘new’ through it
- He has sealed us by the Holy Spirit

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Summary of Themes on Comfort

- Peace to the troubled conscience
- All comforts come from God, and our sweetest comforts are in Him, by the rich mercies of his grace
- He is able to bind up the broken-hearted, to heal the most painful wounds, and also to give hope and joy under the heaviest sorrows.
- The favors God bestows on us, are not only to make us cheerful, but also that we may be useful to others.
- He sends comforts enough to support those who simply trust in and serve him.

- If we should be brought so low as to despair even of life, yet we may then trust God, who can bring back even from death.
- Thus both trials and mercies will end in good to ourselves and others

8 **II Cor 2 paragraph titles**

- 1:23-2:13 Paul's Rel. w/ Corinthians
- 2:1-4 Previous Painful Visit
- 2:5-11 Call to Restore Brother
- 2:12-13 Reminder of Call
- 2:14-17 Victory Aroma

9 **1:23-2:4 Previous Painful Visit**

- A bit of background mixed with supposition
 - Charges against Paul and his disciples
 - Arbitrary Leadership: Whims
 - Spiritual Dictator trying to dominate/dictate
- Paul's Defense
 - 1:18 Not fickle – He establishes us (1:20)
 - 1:24 No lording of any kind
 - 1:24 Working to promote your joy

10 **One of Paul's Contrasts**

- Comfort :: Affliction
- Joy :: Sorrow
 - 1:24 2:1, 2, 2
 - 2:2 (glad) 2:3
 - 2:3, 3, 3 2:4 (heart!)

11 **Joy**

- At least 11 different terms in OT
 - Sameah* – to be glad with the entire disposition
 - (Ex 4:14; Ps 19:8; 104:15)
 - Most often joy is found in God and His salvation
 - II Chron 20:27; Ps 5:11
 - The 'joy of', (or in) the Lord is our strength'

- Neh 8:10

- This joy-giving God calls Israel to share His joy – recurrent call to rejoice (Dt 12:7; 14:26)
- Joy fulfilled at Israel’s restoration (Zech 2:10)

12 **Joy in the NT**

At least seven different words

- With as many “constructed” words (root+addn)
 - Lk 1:14 abundant joy at JBap’s birth
 - Lk 1:28 Gabriel to Mary, “Rejoice!”
 - Lk 1:44 The baby leaped for joy in my womb
 - Lk 1:47 My spirit rejoices in God my Savior
 - Matt 2:10 magi rejoice over star

13 **Paul: The Theologian of Joy**

- Terms for joy = 326 x. Paul 131 x.
- Inseparably tied to grace
 - Inner joy (*chara*) is derived from *charis*
- The reality present when Christ is in me
- Every situation a potential for joy
- Constant sense of future joy through victory

14 **Paul’s Joy and Corinth’s**

- 1:24ff Radical contrast with accusations
 - We are not lording we are co-workers (*sunergo*)
 - His Joy is consummated by growing faith
 - All healthy ministry (relationships) promotes joy
 - TEST: Most grief suffered by the rebuker! 2:4
 - No possibility of ‘control’ if one stands firm in faith
 - There are things other than faith they have to mend

- Their purification is his joy (rejoice cf. Lk 15 4x)
- He has never desired to cause them sustained pain

15 **2:5-11 Call to Restore a Brother**

- Law: Example, Implication, Effect from 1-4
Relationship now turned within body
- Paul does not mention the sin here but most probably it is sexual sin (1 Cor 5: 1-13)
- Punishment complete - time now for forgiveness
- Repentance and accountability have occurred
- Indignation must now be jealous comforting love

- An atmosphere of true forgiveness and restoration that arises out of a community

16 **Recurrence for emphasis!**

■ 2Co 2:10

To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;*

17 **The Outworking of Grace**

■ Grace = *charis*

■ Joy = *chara* Rejoice = *chairō*

■ *Forgive* = *charizomai*

18 **Forgiveness as the Door**

- Forgiveness is not a numbers game!

- Forgiveness is a comprehension of grace

- Forgiveness costs everything

19 **Satan's schemes**

- Perversion which destroys self

- No confrontation whatsoever
- Rejection which is not restorative
- Correction which is too strong and prolonged
- Giving up on the possibility of transformation
- “Immoderate sorrow” “ensnared by repentance”

Chrysostom (4th cent)

20 **2:12-13 Reminder of Call to Them**
“A Door Opened”

- Paul does not mention the vision of Acts 16 to go to Macedonia (Europe)
- Paul indicates here his deep need of support of Titus in midst of his crushing circumstances
- Paul experienced very little respite from problems – but he did not live in despair
- These apparent “disgraces” were a great honor to him

21 **2:14-17 Victory Aroma**

- Notice what he thanks (*charis*) God for (2:14)
God in Christ always leads us in triumph
- 2 words for Victory
 - *Thriambeuo*, here and Col 2:15
 - *Nike* 5 times, 3 in I Cor 15:54,55,57
- Dealing with our ‘triumphalism’
 - Ten different translations of *thriambeuo*
 - Put on display, exhibit, win victory over, etc.
 - This form never used to include celebration of subjects
 - Focus is always on the Victor

22

23 **What does Paul have in mind?**

Soldiers

slave holding crown

Victor/Triumphator "leads"

Representative Captives/trophies

(Incense) Oxen for sacrifice

Flutes

(Incense) Trumpets

Senators

24 **How willing are we to join the parade?**

- What we expect - ?
- Me and Diary of Jim Eliot – enter his gates
- What Paul means:
 - A defeated enemy – being led as a captive
 - A testimony to His disarming power
 - Willing, joyful, vocal witnesses

25 **Does *lead* mean literally to *lead*?**

26 **The Paradoxical Love of Christ**

- Triumphal Arrival Bethlehem of Judea
- Degradation Incarnation
- Cursing Blessing
- Slavery/Death Freedom/Life
- Abject Power Restorative Power
- Aroma of Victory Acceptable Savor of Love

Self-giving

27 **The Aroma of Victorious Love**

- Victory only in Christ
- Always – on-going reality
- Deliverance of those held in bondage
- Aroma tied to divine life – spirit
- Aroma challenges all emptiness, death

OT examples:

Exod 13 – 14

Num 16

28 **The Fragrance which divides**

- What is unique about an aroma?
 - Unseen – sensed rather than defined
 - Permeative – remains after source is gone
- Aroma which saves or destroys – confirms or undermines, affirms or convicts
- Manifested – emphasis here is spoken
- Swindling vs. Sincerity:
here and in 1:12, I Cor 5:8, Phil 1:10, 2 Pet 3:1 Purity of motive ,
godly integrity

29 **Relation of 2:14-17
to rest of the book**

Section lasts until 7:4 (at least)

A sustained defense of their pure apostleship

So at the 'frontispiece' Paul says

1. First and last, always and everywhere God leading His willing captives in his victory pageant disseminating the knowledge of Christ through them

30

The focal point in this action is Jesus Christ

the privilege to participate is 'in Christ'

And the knowledge of Christ is the sweet aroma diffused by
the procession

This victory is on-going, universal, without temporal or
geographical boundaries

31 **II Cor 2 paragraph titles**

1:23-2:13 Paul's Relationship with Corinthians

2:1-4 Previous Painful Visit – Tough Love

2:5-11 Call to Restore a Brother

– Shared Love

2:12-13 Present Deep Concern for Corinth
Love (Anxious Love)

– Sincere

2:14-17 Victory Aroma

– The Life of Love He Gives