How Can I Stay Teachable?



High Praise from Paul: The Background



The church needed to address a sin issue in 1 Corinthians 5.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

¹ It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

² You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

High Praise from Paul: The Background



It sounds like there had been repentance in 2 Corinthians 2.

⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

- ⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority,
- ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.
- ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.

- ⁹ For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.
- ¹⁰ But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

¹¹ so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

High Praise from Paul: The Background



Paul <u>praises</u> the church for <u>acting</u> in faith.

2 Corinthians 7:11-14

¹¹ For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

2 Corinthians 7:11-14

¹² So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 7:11-14

¹⁴ For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be *the* truth.

Why We Need To Learn From It





Acts 17:30-31

³⁰ Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness ...

Acts 8:21-22

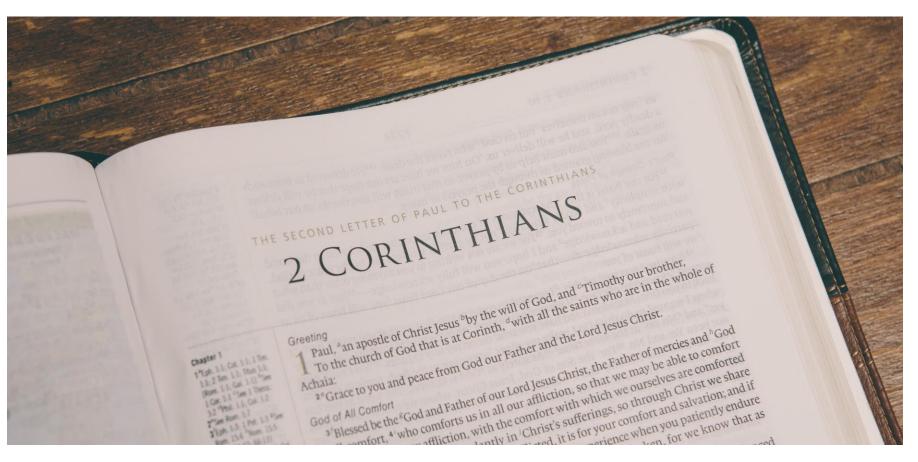
- ²¹ You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.
- Therefore <u>repent</u> of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

Why We Need To Learn From It



If we're not careful, we sometimes lose the motivation to change.

What The Corinthians Show Us



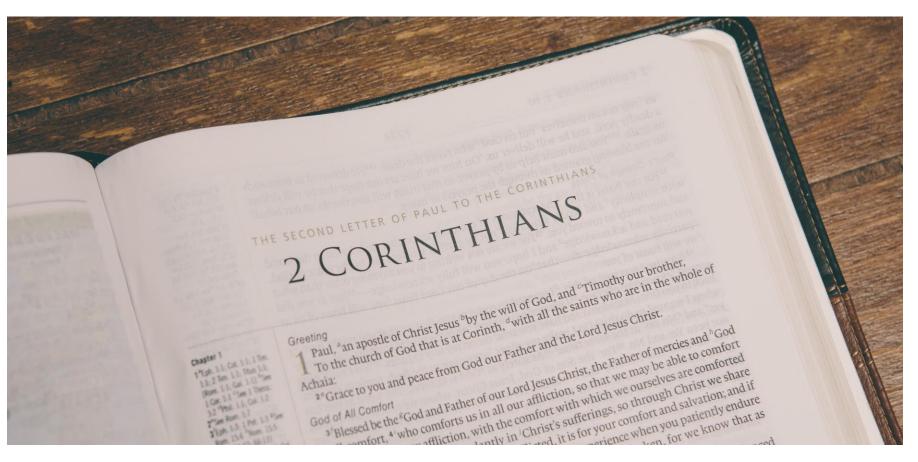
1) Ears that keep listening.

2 Corinthians 7:8

⁸ For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—*for* I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—

Image from: www.lightstock.com

What The Corinthians Show Us



2) Hearts that keep caring.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

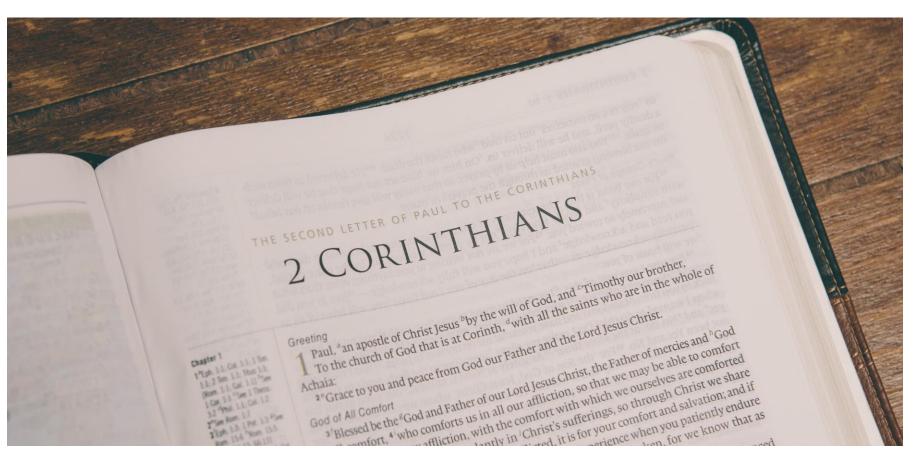
⁹ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Image from: www.lightstock.com

What The Corinthians Show Us



3) The will to make things right.

2 Corinthians 7:11

¹¹ For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.



Hebrews 3:12-13

- Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an <u>evil</u>, <u>unbelieving heart that falls away</u> from the living God.
- ¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will <u>be hardened</u> by the deceitfulness of sin.

Let's be willing to change for God!

