

# 2 Corinthians – Chapter 2

**Author:** Paul  
**Date:** 55 A.D.  
**Purpose:** for the Corinthians to rebuild trust in Paul as God's Apostle  
**Theme:** Strength in weakness



## Spare the Pain

*Read 2:1-4 (ties to 1:23-24)*

- † What sort of pain is the topic of discussion in these verses?
  - See 1 Corinthians 4:21; 2 Corinthians 13:10
- † Why is exercising authority sometimes painful?
- † What assumption does Paul make in verses 2-3 regarding his relationship with the members of the Corinthian church?
  - See 1 Corinthians 12:26
- † What are the two great teachings of the Bible, and why is one of those teachings often painful?

## Forgiveness Is Important!

*Read 2:5-11*

- † When public sin and rebellion occur with a member in a congregation, is it just a personal matter with the individual and God? (vs 5)
- † It seems that a person harmed Paul and others by their actions. Who was it?
- † Is there a point when Church discipline can go too far? (vs 7)
  - See Galatians 6:1; Colossians 3:13
- † Is verse 9 referring to Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians?
- † What is Satan's role in tempting us during discipline and restoration?

## A Troubled Spirit

*Read 2:12-13*

- † Where is the city of Troas and why is it important? (see map illustration)
- † Where else does Paul use the metaphor of doors being opened for ministry?
  - See 1 Corinthians 16:9; Colossians 4:3
- † What does it say about the overall situation in Corinth that Paul walked away from a ministry opportunity because his "spirit was not at rest"? (vs 13)

## The Power of God in Us

Read 1:14-17

- † A “triumphal procession” in Rome would mean the military victors led the conquered people behind them. Why make this comparison? (vs 14)
- † Where do we find the word, “aroma” in other parts of Scripture?
  - See Genesis 8:20-21
- † Consider a distinct smell like perfume. Is it possible to avoid this smell within a certain distance from the wearer?
- † What does “death to death” and “life to life” mean? (vs 16)
- † Answer the question, “Who is sufficient for these things?” (vs 16)
- † Who “peddles God’s Word”? What does this mean? (vs 17)

## Reference to 2 Corinthians 2:12

In ancient times, Troas was on the northwestern edge of what is now modern-day Turkey. Corinth and Athens were in the region of *Achaia*. Berea, Thessalonica and Philippi were in the region of *Macedonia*.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (2 Co 1:1). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.