



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Studies in 2 Corinthians

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

The Smell of Napalm 2 Corinthians 1-3

In *Apocalypse Now*, the 1979 Viet Nam war movie, Lt Col Kilgore (Robt Duvall) loved the smell of napalm in the morning because it was the smell of victory. As the study in 2 Corinthians begins this week the apostle Paul similarly said about Christ that He is the smell of victory to those who know Him; but to those who don’t, He is the smell of death. In this very personal letter Paul described His triumph in Christ even though he had endured great suffering. Thus, he opens this letter by explaining God’s comfort. He is the merciful Father from whom all comfort flows, and He comforts us in our affliction—so that we will comfort others who are afflicted. God had rescued Paul from death and he trusted this would continue as the Corinthians joined in praying

for him. This confidence of the believer is then seen in Paul’s experience. He had a clear conscience even though his plans had changed regarding his visit to them. Just as the promises of God are all yes in Christ and God had established them all in Him by sealing them with the Spirit, so Paul’s word was good, too. The reason Paul had not come to them was to spare them more sorrow; he needed their joy to complete his love for them. As a result he had allowed them to conduct church discipline without him and now encouraged them to restore the guilty party. He then explained that his fear that Titus had encountered danger had caused him to bypass an opportunity to minister in Troas. However, now the triumph of Christ had become his experience. Al-



Authentic Christianity is fleshed out in our personal experiences

though those who oppose Him view Christ’s victory as death, those who know Him draw life from it. Because of this Paul diligently served as a minister of God’s glorious New Covenant which had been revealed. The Mosaic covenant had led to darkness, bondage and death because of sin, but the New Covenant, by the Spirit, leads to life and glory. Therefore, we are to look deeply at God’s glory in this New Covenant by the Spirit and when we do we will be transformed into His image from glory to glory. Like the smell of napalm in the morning this will seem like death to some, but it is really life and freedom for those in Him.

Study Questions for 2 Corinthians 1-3

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

1. Read 2 Cor 1:1-7. How did Paul describe himself and his readers (v1), and what did he pray (v2)? What did he praise God for (v3, 5)? What is the purpose of God’s comfort (v4, 6) and what does Paul believe (v7)?	
2. From 1:8-11 describe what Paul had experienced in Asia (v8) and why God allowed it (v9). What was Paul’s confidence (v10) and what was the Corinthians’ part in this (v11)? Why (v11)? Apply.	
3. In 1:12-18 what did Paul believe about his actions (v12) and why did this matter (v13-14)? What plans had this led Paul to make (v15-16)? Since these plans changed did this mean his word wasn’t good (v17)? Why (18)?	

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2 Corinthians 1-3 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Based on 2 Cor 1:19-22 who was Paul's example of integrity (v19) and why is this important (v20)? What else has Christ done for us (v21-22)?

5. Looking at 1:23-2:4 how did Paul explain his change of plans (1:23, 2:1)? What was his attitude (1:24; 2:2)? What did he desire would happen when he saw them (2:3-4)?

6. Using 2:5-11 what had the one who troubled the church caused (v5)? How had they responded (v6) and what were they to do now (v7-8)? Why (v7, 11)? What was Paul's promise about this (v8-10)?

7. Read 2:12-17. What had Paul found in Troas (v12), but what did he do and why (v13)? How had God worked through him (v14, 17)? What are the 2 reactions to Christ and what makes the difference (v15-16)?

8. In 3:1-5 what did Paul ask (v1) and what was his answer (v2-3)? How does this apply to us? What was Paul's confidence and adequacy (v4-5)?

9. From 3:6-11 what was Paul's role (v6)? Contrast the new covenant and the Mosaic covenant (v6, 7-8, 9-11). What is Paul's point (v12-13)?

10. Looking at 3:14-18 what had happened to the Jews (v14, 15), but what changes this (v14, 16)? What is the result of the Spirit in our lives (v17, 18)? Describe the process by which this occurs (v18). Apply.

11 Review 2 Cor 1-3. What is the purpose of God's comfort (1:1-11) and what gives us confidence (1:12, 18-22, 2:3, 2:14-3:3)? What does the glory of the New Covenant mean to us (3:15-18)?

Scripture to Remember

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*Finding Freedom—the Emotional/Spiritual Principle*
(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Think of some lies you have been told (like “If it feels good do it”) and share them. How do these bind us up?
2. Using Matt 6:12 and 1 John 4:20, how would you explain the emotional-spiritual principle? Why do our emotional wounds create a block to spiritual growth?
3. Why is the 1st lie “I can handle this” so powerful? What is false about it and what is the truth? Why must we admit powerlessness to begin spiritual growth?
4. Discuss why it is so easy to believe the 2nd lie “I am hopeless”, especially when you admit “I am powerless”. How do we overcome this lie according to the Bible (Ps 62:5)?
5. Talk about why it is necessary to not only believe that God can restore us, but to also make a decision to turn our life and will over to His care.
6. Why is the statement, “Freedom comes when I stop being the victim” true? How does repentance—turning from self to God, victim to victor, avoidance to acceptance—overcome the victim mentality? Discuss how you can apply this specifically in your life.
7. If time allows share about anything else meaningful from the message this week.