

College Heights Christian Church
Adult Bible Study Helps
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2 Corinthians 2

Have you ever “partially overheard” a conversation? Maybe in a store or a restaurant or standing in line somewhere? Not enough to get all the details, but enough to get the general ideas being discussed... “I can’t understand why he would...Surely he didn’t think she could...How can he ever expect forgiveness for...” No specifics, but enough to get the broad picture.

2 Corinthians 2 is like that. An incident had taken place that both Paul and the Corinthian church understood clearly, but we don’t know the people or details. However, the emotions and instructions are clear enough for us to learn from today.

2:14 alludes to a custom that the church would have been familiar with – the Roman victory parade. It was the custom for a victorious general to be honored with a parade where he would show the spoils of war and his captives. Another feature of the parade might be the burning of incense as the general passed by. The crowd could then not only see and hear of the general’s exploits, but even “the smell of victory” was in the air.

Points to consider:

- 1 – Do you feel that a confrontational letter would be more or less painful than the same items discussed face to face? Why?
- 2 – Have you had any experience with church discipline and forgiveness? How did it work? Do you feel it was successful?
- 3 – What fragrance indicates both death and life? How?
- 4 – Who peddled the Word of God for profit? How can this apply in our time and culture?