

LOVE  
&  
AUTHORITY  
2 CORINTHIANS



## Sermon Series Notes

### "Schemes of the Enemy" (II Corinthians 1:12-2:11)

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2:4 Paul's love was shown by how he rebuked them for their carnality. He did not enjoy doing it. His heart ached for them, and he longed for them to repent.

2:11 What are the schemes of the enemy?

- \* He is scheming to "devour" us (I Peter 5:8)
- \* He is scheming to "deceive" us
- \* He is scheming to "divide" us. **This** is the main issue in the context of the passage.

\* Matt. 12: 25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand

- \* What are his schemes to accomplish this?

1. Enticing the Corinthian church to falsely accuse Paul.

\* Satan entices them to question Paul's integrity. They falsely accuse him regarding his decision to not visit them when he said he would (see I Cor. 16:5-7). The truth was that God led Paul to remain in Ephesus for over two years. God also led Paul to not return to Corinth when he had planned, because if he had gone when he originally planned to go, it would have been painful, both for him and for the church (see 1:23-2:1). And so they judged him wrongly, with no basis for their charges against him.

\* Note: Satan began using this scheme from the very beginning (see Gen. 3:1-5). Satan was deceiving Eve by enticing her to question God's character. And his desire was to ruin Eve's (and Adam's) relationship with God.

\* Sebastian mentioned Job in his message last weekend (See Job 1:9-11, 20-22).

\* Ever heard the voice of Satan enticing you to doubt God's character/goodness?  
- See Job 2:9-10; John 11:21, 32

\* If Satan can succeed in getting us to doubt God's character, he can certainly get us to question one another's character!

\* See Joshua 22:9-11, 15-18, 21-34

\* Sometimes it's not a false accusation, but simply hearing and repeating more than what was actually said (see John 21:18-24). Note v.24, which I think gives additional insight into what Peter's underlying motive was to start this rumor about John. What would other disciples' attitude toward John be when they heard this. And you better believe when Peter told it, he made sure they knew how much Jesus had predicted that Peter would suffer! No doubt some would think that this was not fair to Peter.

\* One pastor tells a story about someone in the church who owned a limo company and asked the pastor if he would mind them giving free rides to church for people who were poor and did not own a car. When people saw the limos pull up week after week, they assumed they were for the pastor and his family. So the rumor started, and so did an attitude toward the pastor & his family.

\* I was teaching once about praise & worship, and one guy who hardly ever sings during the worship and praise part of the service wrote me a note saying I embarrassed him by looking right at him when I was making my point. He thought I was intentionally looking at him, and it is the farthest thing from the truth. That would be like me teaching about false accusations & rumors and looking right at you

## 2. Creating division as a result of gossip and slander

\* Who was it that first expressed their feelings about Paul in the church at Corinth? Whoever it was became a tool in the hands of the enemy to damage and potentially destroy the relationship Paul had with these people.

\* Prov.16: 28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

\* Illus: Mildred the church gossip

\* James 4: 11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it (Going beyond what is written).

\* See James 3:3-8

\* Remember the old saying "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me." That saying is a lie!

\* Note: Jesus went to the cross as a result of false accusations/lies/slander

\* Prov.18: 21 The tongue has the power of life and death

## 3. Enticing/Inciting the Corinthian church to be unforgiving

\* At first they had failed administering loving discipline to someone who had sinned in the church. Now Paul urges them to forgive this person. The person Paul refers to is more than

likely the person he wrote about in I Cor.5 (turn to and read). His sin was serious, and the discipline in keeping with the sin. Evidently this person had responded in repentance, so Paul now says it's time to forgive him and restore him to fellowship.

\* Some would have an easier time forgiving this person than others. The closer you were to the situation, the more difficult it would be for you to forgive. Was this man married? If he was, his wife is going to have a very difficult time forgiving him. How about his children (if he had children)? And what about his father? Was his father a part of the church?

\* David and Absalom

- II Sam.13 Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar, two years later Absalom (Tamar's full blood brother) kills Amnon

- II Sam.13: 37 Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned for his son every day.

38 After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years.

39 And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death.

- II Sam.14: 23 Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

24 But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king 27 Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. The daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

28 Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.

- II Sam.15:2-6

- While Absalom is responsible for his actions, David failed here as a father. He failed not only in his discipline of Absalom, but he failed in not forgiving Absalom the way **he** had been forgiven.

\* Matt.6:12-15; Mark11:25; Matt. 18:15, 21-35

## CONCLUSION

So what do we need to do in response to this Word from the Lord?

1. Make judgments based on facts, not feelings

- See I Cor.4:3-6a

- I Cor.5:9-13 (based on facts, according to what is written)

- Have you judged someone wrongly? What is the basis of your accusation? Is there any real proof that what you believe about them is true? Did you come to your conclusion based on what someone said about them?

2. Don't gossip/slander, and don't listen to gossip/slander

- Have you allowed your tongue to be a tool in the hands of the enemy to spread gossip/slander?

- Confess/Repent

- Gal.5: 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

3. Learn how to let God deal with your tongue

- It begins at the heart (Matt.12:34b)
- Psalm 19: 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.
- Practice resting your tongue often (James 1:19)
- Be transformed daily (Rom.12:2)

4. Forgive, as God has forgiven you