

**“INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY  
FROM GOD”**

**2 Corinthians 1:23-2:13**

**INTRODUCTION**

From **verses 12-13** we know that Paul had every intent to go to Corinth. When Paul finally meets Titus he hears about all the lies that were being spoken about him. But Paul wants to fight to maintain a relationship with Corinth. He's aggressive to maintain unity, **Eph. 4:2-3**. Paul is now fighting ignorance, which causes many problems. Ultimately, the fight is good vs. evil, or God vs. Satan. We are supernaturally able, with the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to fight a supernatural enemy, the devil. We need to be aware of his tactics, however, for this continuing battle, **Ephesians 6:11-12**.

**NO DOMINION**

Paul did not want to take dominion over their faith, or pressure them, **2 Corinthians 5:11**. This is what Jesus hated in the churches of Ephesus and Pergamum, the deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans (“conquerors of the people”) who tried to control the church congregations, **Revelation 2:6, 15**. There is a difference between influence, persuasion and coercion. Parents still need to discipline their children, and show them the right way, however, cf. **Prov. 12:1**. Influence and persuade, but don't coerce!

**DISCIPLINE FROM LOVE**

Paul's delay was because the timing was wrong. He was upset because of their unrepentant condition, **v.1-3**. Since they didn't have the right attitude, fellowship would be affected. But he wants to give them time.

Confrontation isn't easy, and it can't be avoided. Paul's heart was to help them, not hurt them. He was in anguish as he wrote them! The sin they were in would cause much more pain than anything a letter would produce, cf. **Proverbs 6:23-28**. Satan wants to destroy, but God wants to restore. God has a broken heart for the sinner. When He chastens, it's out of love!

**THE ULTIMATE GOAL**

The grief that was caused was from unchecked fornication in the church. Paul was grieved, but so were others! However, Biblical discipline worked! While turned over to Satan for a time, it caused repentance! **1 Corinth. 5:5**. Now it's time to forgive and comfort the repentant man! The church is for sinners...repentant sinners. We don't want Satan to get the upper hand. Satan is a lying spirit and wants to divide the church. Paul knew that was happening between him and the church in Corinth.

**CONSIDER**

The enemy is not only attacking churches, but individual friends and families! This is ongoing! We have to recognize it. “**Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.**” **Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV**. Remember, don't let Satan get the upper hand!

**PRAY .....**

- \* That we would have hearts that love the lost!
- \* That the Lord would allow us to purchase the land behind the church for youth activities.
- \* That God's Spirit would refresh the pastors at our East Coast Pastors' conference in September.