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| ***GBC FLOCK GROUP QUESTIONS***  ***2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 1:1-2:13***  ***Lesson 1 Week of April 7, 2024*** | C:\Users\Kal\Pictures\Church Logos\GBC\GBC1400x1400N.png |

1. *We begin the lesson by focusing on the Sunday message. How did God use His Word from this past Sunday to teach you, reprove you, correct you, train you in righteousness, or remind you of essential truth (****2 Timothy 3:16****)?*
2. ***Review****: the church of Corinth in southern Greece was founded by the apostle Paul in the mid-first century. For nearly two years, Paul helped build and establish this church before leaving the city under political pressure. However, after his departure, his heart remained close to the people there; we are aware he wrote to them four times and visited the city on several occasions. Two of his letters are preserved for us today in the canon of Scripture. One of these, 1 Corinthians, we have recently studied. Write a brief “****thumbnail sketch****” of what* ***1 Corinthians*** *is about and choose a paragraph you believe would have been most impactful to that church.*
3. *The content and tone of the letter of* ***2 Corinthians*** *stands in contrast to that of 1 Corinthians. This second letter is intensely personal and reveals Paul’s deep emotions. If 1 Corinthians “takes the roof off of the church” and lets us look in, then 2 Corinthians “opens the heart of Paul” and lets us see his love and concern for the work of the Lord. In 1 Corinthians Paul is an instructor and corrector, while in 2 Corinthians he is a loving pastor and father, pouring out his life for his spiritual children, even to the point of experiencing trials and hardships. The* ***theme*** *of 2 Corinthians is “****a defense of Paul’s ministry****.” Based upon his personal experiences, Paul presents three reasons in 2 Corinthians why God allows His people to suffer. Read each passage below and write a summary of Paul’s thoughts, expanding on the brief titles that are listed, as to why God permits suffering:*

* ***1:1-7: That we might comfort one another*** *~*
* ***1:8-11: That we might have confidence in God alone*** *~*
* ***1:12-24: That we might claim the promises of God*** *~*

1. *In* ***2 Corinthians 1:15-17*** *Paul describes his travel plans and defends his integrity in changing these plans. Apparently, he had been accused of vacillating and being undependable. This leads Paul to a brief reflection on the reliability, immutability, and dependability of God in* ***verses 18-22****. From these verses (****1:18-22****) list those qualities of the character of God Paul describes.*

* *In connection to the change of his travel plans, what is Paul’s point in reflecting on God’s character, i.e. how does this fit with Paul defending his ministry?*

1. *After this brief digression on the nature of God in 1:18-22, Paul returns to explaining his altered travel plans (****1:23-2:4****). What is the reason for his change of plans?*

* *What do verses* ***1:23-2:4*** *tell you about Paul’s heart for the Corinthian church? How does this encourage us to respond to one another when there is relational difficulty?*

1. *The next paragraph of Paul’s letter (****2:5-11****) deals with forgiveness. This was written in the context of a specific incident of discipline in the church. From* ***Matthew 18:15-17****, what is the 4-step process the church is to take in order to confront sin and restore a sinning believer?*

* *As we look at our section in* ***2:5-11*** *that deals with forgiveness, what different reasons for forgiveness are indicated in these verses (****2:5-11****)? From these verses, along with* ***Matthew 18:15****, what is the main reason for carrying out church discipline?*
* *What are the dangers in doing church discipline wrongly? What does forgiveness look like in the church when it carries out the four steps?*

1. *A theme in the first 13 verses of chapter 2 is causing another sorrow. In this case, the sorrow comes when confronting another person in sin. When we cause the sorrow, how can we balance the need to confront them in their sin while trying not to offend them?*
2. *In* ***verses 12-13****, Paul seems to be saying a door opened to him for the gospel, but he didn’t take it. Why did Paul not use this opportunity? Are there ever reasons why we shouldn’t share the gospel in a particular situation or moment?*