

## 2 Corinthians 1:23– 2:11

### 1:23-2:4

Attitude of Cors to Paul – 2 Cor. 10:10.

Attitude of Paul to the Cors – mercy and love.

**Mercy** – 1:23. Compare Jesus - (2 Pet.3:9). 'Just as God has extended one more opportunity for repentance and restoration to the world by separating the 2 comings of Xt, Paul too wanted to extend this same opportunity to the Corinthians' (Hafemann).

Love – 2:4.

- 1) We should aim at honesty.
- 2) Where possible, we should explain our actions and motives if we are in danger of being misunderstood.
- 3) Paul doesn't 'lord' it over these troublesome Cors (v.24) – his HUMILITY. Jesus is their Lord. Paul is their servant (4:5), their co-worker (1:24). He expresses his dependence on them (2:2). He loves them and tells them so (2:4b). He weeps with them (2:4a). He needs their ministry to him and tells them he needs it (2:2,3a). But he doesn't hold back from rebuking them (2:3).

### 2:5-11 Perhaps ref to 1 Cor.5:1-5.

- The church is 'an eternal community with cosmic relationships' (Kent Hughes, 49). 'A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough' Cf. 1 Cor.12:26 & 2 Cor.11:29.
- Forgiveness and reconciliation - 'in the face of Xt' (10).
- Note Matt. 6:12 - '*Forgive us our sins AS we forgive those who sin against us.*' Matt.6:14-15. Matt. 18:21-35
- Eph.4:32 & Col.3:12-13.
- 2 Cor.2:10 - *Whatever I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive ....*

### Prayer:

*Lord, thank you for the amazing example of the apostle Paul in his attitudes as well as his actions. We ask for grace and power in the sight of Jesus to be humble, merciful and loving, as Paul was with these troublesome Corinthians. Help us also to forgive one another just as you have forgiven us and may we praise you afresh as we realise that you have removed our sins from us as far as the east is from the west – you forgive and forget. So give us the power and grace of your Spirit to treat others as you have treated us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.