



LESSON  
09

**LOVE-DRIVEN MINISTRY**

# SATURDAY - Love-driven Ministry

## 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

<sup>23</sup>Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as one beside himself) I more; in labors more abundantly, in prisons more abundantly, in stripes above measure, in deaths oft. <sup>24</sup>Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. <sup>25</sup>Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep; <sup>26</sup>in journeyings often, in perils of rivers, in perils of robbers, in perils from my countrymen, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup>in labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. <sup>28</sup>**Besides those things that are without, there is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches.**

# SUNDAY – Thanksgiving

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. What is the reason for Paul's attitude of thanksgiving here?

A: God comforts us and we comfort you.

If we suffer like Christ, we will be comforted like Christ.

First the cross, then the crown. First death, then resurrection.

## 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; <sup>4</sup>who comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort them that are in any affliction, through the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. <sup>5</sup>For **as the sufferings of Christ abound unto us, even so our comfort also** aboundeth through Christ. <sup>6</sup>But whether we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or whether we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which worketh in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: <sup>7</sup>and our hope for you is stedfast; knowing that, **as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so also are ye of the comfort.**

# SUNDAY – Thanksgiving

## 2. What is Paul expressing thanks for in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11?

**A:** Because there is a resurrection and because of faith in the God who resurrects.  
For being delivered from a terrible death.

### 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

<sup>8</sup>For we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were weighed down exceedingly, **beyond our power**, insomuch that we despaired even of life: <sup>9</sup>yea, **we ourselves have had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead:**

<sup>10</sup>who delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver: on whom we have set our hope that he will also still deliver us; <sup>11</sup>ye also helping together on our behalf by your supplication; that, for the gift bestowed upon us by means of many, thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf.

# MONDAY – Simplicity and Sincerity

**3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 in the light of 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2. How does Paul's sincerity reveal his love for the Corinthians?**

**A:** Paul lived in holiness and sincerity. This testimony was a glory.

He spoke on God's own part

He commended himself to every man's conscience.

## **2 Corinthians 1:12-14**

<sup>12</sup>For our glorying is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we behaved ourselves in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward. <sup>13</sup>For we write no other things unto you, than what ye read or even acknowledge, and I hope ye will acknowledge unto the end: <sup>14</sup>as also ye did acknowledge us in part, that we are your glorying, even as ye also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

## **2 Corinthians 2:17**

For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God, speak we in Christ.

## **2 Corinthians 4:2**

but we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

# TUESDAY – Changing Plans for Love

**4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-7. What was Paul's original travel plan?**

**A:** To visit the brethren in Corinth.

## **1 Corinthians 16:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>But **I will come unto you, when I shall have passed through Macedonia**; for I pass through Macedonia; <sup>6</sup>but with you it may be that I shall abide, or even winter, that ye may set me forward on my journey whithersoever I go. <sup>7</sup>For I do not wish to see you now by the way; for I hope to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit. <sup>8</sup>But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost; <sup>9</sup>for a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

MACEDONIA

ASIA

ACHAEA



Neápolis

Anfípolis

Apolônia

Bereia

Nicópolis

Trôade

Assôs

Adramício

Mitilene

Pérgamo

Tiatira

Esmirna

Filadélfia

Hierápolis

Laodiceia

Éfeso

Corinto

Cencreia

Areópago

Cnido

Rodes

Mirra

Atália

Perga

# TUESDAY – Changing Plans for Love

## 4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-7. What was Paul's original travel plan?

**A:** To visit the brethren in Corinth.

But out of love for them, he wrote a letter instead of making the visit

### 1 Corinthians 16:5-7

<sup>5</sup>But **I will come unto you, when I shall have passed through Macedonia**; for I pass through Macedonia; <sup>6</sup>but with you it may be that I shall abide, or even winter, that ye may set me forward on my journey whithersoever I go. <sup>7</sup>For I do not wish to see you now by the way; for I hope to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit. <sup>8</sup>But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost; <sup>9</sup>for a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

### 2 Corinthians 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup>But I determined this for myself, that **I would not come again to you with sorrow**. <sup>2</sup>For if I make you sorry, who then is he that maketh me glad but he that is made sorry by me? <sup>3</sup>And I wrote this very thing, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all. <sup>4</sup>**For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears**; not that ye should be made sorry, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

# WEDNESDAY – Forgiveness and Reaffirmation of Love

**5. Read 2 Corinthians 7:5-13. What was the result of what he wrote to them, and what was Paul's reaction because of that result?**

**A:** The brethren in Corinth were grieved, and repented.

## **2 Corinthians 7:5-13**

<sup>5</sup>For even when we were come into Macedonia our flesh had no relief, but we were afflicted on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. <sup>6</sup>Nevertheless he that comforteth the lowly, even God, comforted us by the coming of Titus; <sup>7</sup>and not by his coming only, but also by the comfort wherewith he was comforted in you, while he told us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced yet more. <sup>8</sup>For though I made you sorry with my epistle, I do not regret it: though I did regret it (for I see that that epistle made you sorry, though but for a season), <sup>9</sup>I now rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye were made sorry unto repentance; for ye were made sorry after a godly sort, that ye might suffer loss by us in nothing. <sup>10</sup>For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. <sup>11</sup>For behold, this selfsame thing, that ye were made sorry after a godly sort, what earnest care it wrought in you, yea what clearing of yourselves, yea what indignation, yea what fear, yea what longing, yea what zeal, yea what avenging! In everything ye approved yourselves to be pure in the matter. <sup>12</sup>So although I wrote unto you, I wrote not for his cause that did the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered the wrong, but that your earnest care for us might be made manifest unto you in the sight of God. <sup>13</sup>Therefore we have been comforted: and in our comfort we joyed the more exceedingly for the joy of Titus, because his spirit hath been refreshed by you all.

# WEDNESDAY – Forgiveness and Reaffirmation of Love

## 6. Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. What is the central idea here?

**A:** Appeasement. Show how the church should deal with someone who is in sin.

Some churches never confront evident sins. Others are rigid and ruthless.

Sin needs to be dealt with, yes, but with love. Is the situation extinguished? May the person be rehabilitated.

## 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>But **if any hath caused sorrow**, he hath caused sorrow, not to me, but in part (that I press not too heavily) to you all. <sup>6</sup>**Sufficient to such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the many;** <sup>7</sup>so that contrariwise **ye should rather forgive him and comfort him**, lest by any means such a one should be swallowed up with his overmuch sorrow. <sup>8</sup>Wherefore I beseech you to confirm your love toward him. <sup>9</sup>For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye are obedient in all things. <sup>10</sup>But to whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for what I also have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, for your sakes have I forgiven it in the presence of Christ; <sup>11</sup>**that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

# THURSDAY – Triumph in Christ

**7. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12, 13. Where did Paul go after writing "the severe letter" to them? What did he do there?**

**A:** He went to Macedonia to look for Titus in order to find out what the repercussion of the “severe letter” was.

## **2 Corinthians 2:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ, and when a door was opened unto me in the Lord, <sup>13</sup>I had no relief for my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

**8. Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17. What was Paul's reaction upon meeting Titus in Macedonia and hearing about the positive response of the Corinthians?**

**A:** Gratitude, joy and jubilation. He felt triumphant through Christ.

## **2 Corinthians 2:14, 15**

<sup>14</sup>But thanks be unto God, who always leadeth us in triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest through us the savor of his knowledge in every place. <sup>15</sup>For we are a sweet savor of Christ unto God, in them that are saved, and in them that perish;