

TALK 2 – Ray Bell

Pain, Forgiveness & Comfort

2 Corinthians 2:1-17

Avoiding Pain

I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. (2 Cor 2:1)

I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. (2 Cor 2:4)

- Paul's ultimate aim is restoration! - redemption and reconciliation.

Forgiveness & Comfort

- Forgiveness involves more than the mere acceptance of an apology. It includes a hearty "welcome back" into the community of faith.
 - o Not with our eyes closed... but with our arms open.
 - ...lest he be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow
 - ...to test gospel obedience
 - ...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan

The Aroma of Christ

- No 'lone rangers' in gospel ministry
- A triumphal procession...
 - o ...but are we conquerors... or captives?
- The knowledge of God stinks!