

## 2 Corinthians 1-2

### Lesson #10

St. Paul's *Second Letter to the Corinthians* follows an earlier, rather severe letter sent to them (cf. 2Co 2:3-4,9, 7:8-9,12; the letter is non-extant), as well as a visit by Titus to address a serious matter in the Church at Corinth (cf. 2Co 7:6-7,14-16; the severe letter and Titus' visit are probably connected, but we do not know the exact nature of the incident itself). Chapters 1-7 present a summary of what has taken place in recent months, although St. Paul's purpose in reviewing these events is not to re-address the past, but to help the Corinthians grow spiritually.

#### Question #1

1a. The words *encouragement, consolation, comfort, exhortation* (also *urge* or *beseech*) are rooted in Greek *paraklesis*, a word (or form of this word) which St. Paul uses twenty-one times in chapters 1-7. From this Greek word comes one of the titles of the Holy Spirit, the "Paraclete." What kind of "encouragement" is God giving His people through the Word we encounter in 2Co 1:3-7 and 7:2-7, given the fact that there have been misunderstandings, disobedience, severe reprimands and hurt feelings in recent months? How does St. Paul's exhortation reveal the spirit/Spirit of a true apostle at work among God's people (cf., e.g., 2Co 1:12-22, 2:17, 4:1-2,12-15, 5:11-15,20-21, 6:3-13, 7:2-4,8-12)?

Readings: Dt 3:28; 2Ch 16:8-9; 1Mc 12:50-51; 2Mc 13:12-17, 15:17; Ba 4:30; Jn 14:16-18,25-26, 16:7-14; Ac 14:22, 15:30-35, 20:1-2; Rm 1:11-12; Ph 1:9-11; Col 1:24-25,28-29, 2:1-5; 1Th 2:11-12, 3:1-3; Ti 1:9; Hb 12:5-7; CCC 692.

1b. What can we learn from St. Paul's words in 2Co 1:12-22 about changing his course of action? Should a Christian change his mind after he decides to do something, especially since we know that God never changes His mind and that faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in us? Explain your answer.

Readings: Nb 23:19; Pss 77:10-12 [NAB: 77:11-13], 117; Ec 3:6; Si 5:9-10 [NAB: 5:11-12]; Mt 1:19-20,24, 2:12; Ac 16:6-10, 20:3, 22:17-21, 23:11; Rm 1:13, 7:6; 1Co 15:58; 2Co 4:1, 12:18, 13:7-9; Ep 1:9-11; 1Tm 6:11; Hb 6:16-20; CCC 1062, 1065, 1296, 2093, 2153, 2465-66, 2468-69.

1c. What reason does St. Paul give for writing his previous letter to the Corinthians (2Co 2:9), and what can we learn from this statement about how we should respond to apostolic Tradition as divine revelation? (Remember that at the time this statement is made, St. Paul's letters are still part of apostolic tradition, the New Testament not having yet been formed.)

Readings: Ex 15:23-27; 1Ch 29:17-20; Ps 17:3-5, 119:9-16; Ws 6:9-11; Jn 5:37-40, 8:31-32, 12:39-40,44-45; 2Co 13:10; CCC 77-78, 84, 171, 176, 181-85, 857.

#### Question #2

What is the "fragrance of Christ" about which St. Paul speaks in 2Co 2:14-17? How is it present in the world, and what are its effects?

Readings: Gn 27:26-29; Ex 30:6-7,22-37; Lv 16:12-13; 2Ch 2:2-3; Ps 45:6-8 [NAB: 45:8-9]; Sg 1:12-14, 2:12-13, 4:10-11, 7:14; Si 24:15; Ba 5:7-9; Ho 14:7; Jn 12:3; 1Co 1:18; Ep 5:1-2; Ph 4:18; CCC 436, 695, 1150, 1152, 1241, 1289, 1294, 1297.