

## Painful Ministry

### Introduction and Review

- Making godly plans should involve integrity with people (1:12-14)
- Making godly plans should benefit people (1:15-16)
- Sometimes godly plans must be changed – wisdom in retreat & restraint (1:18-24)
- False accusations & criticism may follow the change of a godly plan (1:17)
- God will vindicate those who trust Him with their plans (Ps. 26:1)

### I. Ministry Involves Pain (v. 1-4)

#### A. The cause of pain (v. 1)

*Rejection, scorn & contempt from his first visit with the church had caused Paul pain (2Co. 10:10; 11:5-6). Personal interaction with unreasonable people causes strife & pain (2Co. 2:1; Pr. 26:20-21).*

#### B. The desire for joy (v. 2-4)

*Paul faced a dilemma (v. 2). The wise solution was to write a letter to address the issues, restore joy & express his love (v. 3-4).*

***Ministry involves both pain & joy for the glory of God.***

### II. Ministry Involves Forgiveness (v. 5-11)

#### A. The effect of pain (v. 5)

*Strife & confusion between two or more church members causes pain for the entire church – “to all of you”. It is not necessary to address all the details of a past offense or sin repeatedly (publically or privately) – no name, details, etc.*

#### B. The desire for forgiveness (v. 6-11)

*This church exercised biblical discipline (v. 6; Mt. 18:15-20; 1Co. 5:1-13). The purpose of discipline is to produce repentance & change. After repentance, the church should forgive, comfort & reaffirm love for the offender (v. 7-10).*

*Church discipline must not be excessive or over-extended (v. 11) = opportunity for Satan.*

***Ministry involves church discipline & forgiveness for the glory of God!***