

# *A Fragrance*

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## **2 Corinthians 1**

**23** I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. **24** Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.

## **2 Corinthians 2**

**1** So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. **2** For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? **3** I wrote as I did so that when I came I should not be distressed by those who ought to make me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. **4** For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

**5** If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent – not to put it too severely. **6** The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. **7** Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. **8** I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. **9** The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. **10** If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive – I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, **11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

**12** Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, **13** I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

**14** But thanks be to God, Who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. **15** For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. **16** To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? **17** Unlike so many, we do not peddle the Word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.