

Name _____



ST PAUL'S
LUTHERAN

This card is to help you reflect on this week's sermon. We encourage you to use it for discussion with your family or friends. Feel free to gather a group for Bible study, encouragement, and prayer. May God bless our listening and study of His Word!

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

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. 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 Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. 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.

1. What kind of "grief" is Paul probably talking about in verse 5?

2. Notice Paul's caution in verse 6. He doesn't want to overstate things. What is the danger when we go too far in saying things?

3. What sort of punishment might be inflicted on a member of a church? Why?

4. How would we ever know if such a punishment was "sufficient"? What is the goal?

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5. How would we "forgive and comfort" a person punished in this way?

6. In the second part of the passage, Paul comments on forgiveness in more general terms.

Notice the progression of verse 10:

If you forgive, then ___ forgive, and if ___ forgive, then _____ forgives.

7. Forgiveness, then, whether from the church or from Christ, is _____.

8. In verse 11, "outwit" is a word that also means "get the better of," or "cheat."

9. How might Satan cheat or get the better of us if we fail to bring a grieving sinner back into the church?

10. What, always, is the goal of Satan and his goblins?

11. Connect verse 6 and verse 11 in Paul's logic, if you can.

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