

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Outwitting Satan

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

April 19th, 2026

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

Theme: Division is the enemy's weapon, but forgiveness outflanks him.

Introduction: Our enemy is at war with us. Satan wants to destroy God's people, God's church, and snuff out the gospel light. But God's Word makes us wise to the enemy's maneuvers. Division is one of the enemy's most deadly weapons, and it brings shame to the cause of Christ. The devil loves it and uses it, but we can and must outflank him.

Second Corinthians 2:5–11 can be taken in three pairs:

1. Division and Pain (5)

- Whenever there is division within the body of Christ, there is pain.
- There was division in the Corinthian church, and there was one man in particular that was leading the criticism of Paul.
 - Paul wrote this letter to deal with the devil's attack through this man, and to put him out of the church.
- Paul acknowledges this division affects the Corinthians most, while also qualifying that he does not mean to "put it too severely."

2. Forgiveness and Comfort (6–9)

- Unanimity cannot be fully achieved, but unity must be.
- The man who was formerly attacking Paul appears to be repentant, and Paul required the Corinthians to forgive and comfort him.
- When we repent, we should seek to do it wholeheartedly; at the same time, when others repent to us, we should not require perfect repentance.
- Times of conflict, though painful, are opportunities for redemption.

3. Unity and Victory (10–11)

- The devil is counting on the Corinthians to receive Paul's letter as self-serving.
- God's people must use God's standards when interpreting life's circumstances.
- The way to outflank the devil is by forgiving one another.

Questions:

1. How are you tempted to overstate your victimhood, making it more severe than it really is?
2. How do you need to grow in extending forgiveness and comfort to those who have repented to you?
3. How does being forgiven enable you to forgive? Is there anyone you need to forgive right now in light of how you've been forgiven?