

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11 NRSV | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the third in our fall series on 2nd Corinthians. Paul tried to repair the strained relationship he had with the church in Corinth. The Corinthian Christians gave their founding pastor, Paul, more trouble than all his other churches put together. No sooner did Paul get one problem straightened out than three more appeared. He sailed over from Ephesus to confront these issues, then wrote a severe letter, but it didn't seem to have any positive effect but only made things worse. And so, the words from our passage today attempt to work through this challenging situation.

1. Why do you think you have easy friendships with certain people/groups, while other relationships seem to take a great amount of work and are characterized by conflict?
2. Read 2 Cor. 1:23-2:11. Paul uses the word *pain* or *pained* eight times in the first eight verses of chapter 2. The Greek word literally means “severe mental or emotional distress; vex, irritate, offend, insult.” What is your guess of how they “pained” each other from these verses? Can you relate to similar irritations in your own life right now? What vexes you about other people and situations?
3. What is Paul’s strategy of overcoming the pain? What does he do or not do? What does he suggest and not suggest?
4. In verses 5-11, Paul talks about a specific person he had tried to discipline because of some obvious impropriety, who the people at Corinth at first defended, but then disciplined him themselves in the end. What does Paul want done with him now? Why does he suggest that the repentant person be shown grace, forgiveness, and love?
5. Is there a person in your life who is difficult to love? How have you tried to fix the relationship in the past? Were they repentant? Does that matter? What from Paul’s words or my sermon might help you be a better friend, help restore a broken relationship, or enable someone to move forward with grace and mercy?
6. Prov. 27:6, 2 Cor. 7:8-13a, and Luke 24:36-48 call us to a challenging and different way than our society usually suggests regarding how we relate to others (especially those who are difficult to get along with). What takeaway or next step might you attempt in your challenging relationship, because of the presence of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 2:10)?

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Financial Update	as of Oct 12, 2025
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	9,524,954
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	4,678,338

Births and Deaths
Grant Keener passed away Oct 15.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Covenant Cards Coming Soon
Watch for your 2026 Covenant Package arriving in your mailbox this week! Your pledge isn't a gift yet—it's your projection of next year's giving, which helps MDPC plan wisely for 2026 ministry expenses.

Congregational Meeting
Sun, Oct 26 following each service
Next Sunday, there will be a brief rolling Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing MDPC's 2028 Class of Officers and the members of the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch
Mon, Oct 20 | 11am-1pm
Enjoy Christian fellowship at our monthly lunch! No reservations required. Order your food in MDPC Café and bring to our group's tables in Fellowship Hall. Learn more: seniors.mdpc.org

New Women's Bible Study
Thu, Oct 23-Nov 20 | 11:45am-1pm
Grab your Bible, your lunch, and your brave heart—because we're diving into five powerful stories of courage and faith-full living! Free childcare available. Sign up: women.mdpc.org



Give Online
give.mdpc.org


To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org.

Young Adults Choctoberfest
Thu, Oct 30 | 6:30-9pm | MDPC
Join us for an evening of chocolatey treats, friendly competition, and community connection. Bring a homemade dessert creation to enter into the contest - or just come hungry and ready to vote! Details and RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org

Women's Spiritual Retreat
Sat, Nov 15 | 9am-3:30pm
Guided by the Spirit and led by faithful teachers Beth Case and Teri Adair, we will explore Scripture and reflect on how God's mighty presence brings restoration, purpose, and peace. Learn more and register: delight.mdpc.org

Volunteers (ages 14 and up) Needed
We need your help in preschool and elementary Sunday School! Join us once a month to help young children grow in their faith. Training and materials provided. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org


Sing with Our Littles!
Do you play an instrument and sing a little? Do you enjoy children? If so, have we got a volunteer opportunity for you! We're looking for volunteers (age 14 and up) to help lead singing during Preschool Worship on Sunday mornings. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org



BLAST OFF MOMS BOOK CLUB

Moms of elementary-aged kids are invited! Drop off your kids at Blast Off, grab dinner from the cafe (or bring dinner from home), then join us for a conversation centered around the book *More Than a Mom* by Kari Kampakis.

Wednesdays thru Nov 19
5:30-7pm | Room 207



Calling all 1st-5th Graders! Get ready to zoom into a galaxy of fun, faith, and friendship at BLAST OFF — our awesome elementary mid-week program!

Wednesdays thru Nov 19 | 5:30-7pm

Learn more and sign up: blastoff.mdpc.org



BLAST OFF!
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Rachel Poysky

*Songs of Praise *Everlasting God
In Christ Alone*

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People

Worship Song *Abide*

HEARING THE WORD

Message **Beautifully Broken** Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11 NRSV

RESPONDING

Offertory *Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me*

SENDING

*Doxology OLD 100TH

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship Michael Middleton

*Songs of Praise *Desert Song
Worthy of It All*

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Sally Henien

*Worship Song *Abide*

HEARING THE WORD

Message **Beautifully Broken** Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11 NRSV

RESPONDING

Offertory *Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me*

SENDING

*Doxology OLD 100TH

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums | Uvaldo Callejas, bass | JJ Blanco, keys
Chris Parrott, guitar | Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out!
Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude *Litanies of Praise* Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Call to Worship Brett Hurst

Choral Introit *Let All the World* Ralph V. Williams (1872-1958)

*Hymn of Praise *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Vs. 1, 3 | #276 | FAITHFULNESS

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon Brett Hurst

*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

*Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 51* Vs. 1, 2, 4, 6 | #196 | David Isele

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation *When Peace Like a River* arr. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012)

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RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Vs. 1, 4 | #379 | SOLID ROCK

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer

Offertory *Joy in the Morning* Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

SENDING

*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592 | OLD 100TH

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Postlude *Voluntary in D* David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

Musicians: Cassandra Black, cantor | Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist



This Thanksgiving, ESB and MDPC Fuente Food Pantries will feed over 1,000 families struggling with food insecurity - and you can help!

Shopping bags and lists available on campus starting Oct 19.

Learn more: meals.mdpc.org





THIRD GRADE BIBLE RETREAT

Sun, Nov 2 | 12:30-2pm

Kids will learn how to navigate the Bible, be introduced to the books of the Bible, and simply get comfortable and ready to explore the Word!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sun, Nov 9 | Details at tgb.mdpc.org

It's MDPC Homeless Awareness Month and we are offering a simple but meaningful way to help those who are suffering from homelessness. Look for the baskets around campus filled with care bags containing tie-dye socks made by our Summer Celebration kids, along with self-care toiletries. We invite you to take bags to pass along to someone in need. A small act of kindness can go a long way!