# Walking through treacle 4. Big picture actions

# 2 Cor 1:23-2:17

# Pain

## The people who should make you rejoice don’t!

### Do we confront them them?

### Do we pick our battles carefully and give up on the rest?

### Do we back off to fight another day?

### Do we back off and leave them to it?

## In 2 Corinthians Paul is giving us a model of how to handle difficult situations and tells us it’s not about us, it’s about the bigger picture so be people with humility and integrity in dealing with pain

# God wants you to show your priorities

## Not all pain is bad

## Walk towards the pain

### The greater the reward the greater the pain people are willing to face

## Forgive and restore

### It is difficult to do without a bigger payoff in mind

# God has a picture for you

## Draw on the bigger picture

### Where do you want it to end?

#### For Paul it’s Christ is leading us as captives in a triumphal procession across the earth using us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of God

# God wants to lead you

## Let the peace of God rule those leadings

### It settles your heart and doesn’t give up on others

## If you have the peace of God

### You sense the love God has for you and the other person;

### You sense the longing He has for their restoration

### You bow in worship because you know it’s good for them and for you

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Face to face discussions (1-4)

## To what extent would you agree that it is always better to talk face-to-face when negotiating problems?

### Under what circumstances would it not help?

#### How could the negotiation be facilitated?

#### What would be the goals of the facilitator?

### Paul tried to resolve his problem with the church by letter

#### How careful must he have been for a successful outcome?

#### What attitude did he have?

# Forgiveness (5-11)

## Paul says ‘forgive and restore’ the offender

### Under what circumstances is this not appropriate?

### Under what circumstances is this illegal?

## How can we forgive and restore offending Christians without being inappropriate or breaking the law?

### To what can we restore them?

## What happens in a church when forgiveness and restoration are not done well?

### How does this help us understand v.10 where Satan is mentioned?

### What systems do churches need to put in place so that forgiveness and restoration are not just done in name only?

# Big picture restoration (12-17)

## Imagine you are a captive in a Roman triumphal procession

### What could you give thanks for?

### What new life would you be facing?

### To what extent would your attitude govern your actions?

## Look at Paul’s vision for the future (14-16)

### How does this help the healing process?

### How can this approach help us as a church to face a different future?

### How can it help families going through difficult times?