

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S JOY IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH- PART 2
2 CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

We've Seen Thus Far How That:

I. PAUL HAD JOY AT THE COMING OF TITUS! (Vs 6)

II. PAUL HAD JOY IN THE NEWS FROM TITUS! (7:7)

Verse 7 lists three things that Titus found:

1. The Corinthians had an earnest desire to see Paul again;
2. The Corinthians had mourned over their sin;
3. The Corinthians had a fervent mind toward Paul;

The verses that follow verse 7 deal with another result:

4. They had repented and dealt with the offender!

III. PAUL HAD JOY IN THE CORINTHIANS' OBEDIENCE!

That first letter had brought a sorrow unto repentance in their lives.

Verses 9b – "...but that ye sorrowed to repentance:"

Verse 10a – "For godly sorrow..."

"Sorrow according to God" That is, such sorrow as has respect to God, or is according to his will, or as leads the soul to him.

This is a very important expression in regard to true repentance, and shows the exact nature of that sorrow which is connected with a return to God.

I want to remind you that "Godly sorrow" implies a few things:

1. "Godly sorrow" implies such sorrow as God approves of, or such as is suitable to, or conformable to His will and desires!
2. "Godly sorrow" implies such sorrow exercised towards God in view of sin; which arises from a view of the evil of sin as being committed against a holy God!
3. "Godly sorrow" implies such sorrow that leads to God!
It leads to God to obtain His forgiveness!

A heart that is truly contrite and penitent seeks God, and begs

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the pardon available from Him.

Any other sorrow in view of sin than that which is genuine repentance, leads the person away from God. It seeks consolation in the world! It chooses to drown that sorrow in the pleasures and the cares of life.

*But genuine sorrow for sin leads the soul to God to obtain the pardon and peace which He alone can give to a wounded spirit!
In God alone can pardon and true peace be found; and godly sorrow for sin will seek them there!*

Verse 10b – "worketh repentance."

Produces a change; a reformation. It is not mere regret; it does not soon pass away in its effects, but it produces abiding changes.

Verse 10c – "Not to be repented of."

*This is the same word used in 2 Corinthians 7:8 which means .
"Not to be regretted."*

There is no occasion to mourn or to have regrets over such repentance and change of life. There will be no reason for regretting it, and it will never be regretted.

I don't know of anyone who ever yet "repented" or "had regrets" over having truly repented of sin! I know many who had regrets that they didn't repent sooner because of a wasted life and the effects of sin on their life! But never have I known one to regret having truly repented of their sin!

Verse 10d – "But the sorrow of the world."

All sorrow which is not toward God, and which does not arise from just views of sin as committed against God, or that leads one to God.

It is believed that Paul refers here to the **sorrow which arises from worldly causes**, and which does not lead to God for consolation.

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It might include:

1. Sorrow arising from losses of property or friends!
2. Sorrow arising from disappointment!
3. Sorrow for sins fruits or consequences!
4. Sorrow from one who has involved himself in disgrace will often feel regret, and sorrow, and remorse, but it can arise wholly from worldly considerations, rather than leading to God!

Verse 10e – "...worketh death."

Tends to death, spiritual, temporal, and eternal. It does not tend to life!

1. **It may produces distress that has no consolation!**
(i.e. Death of the life that one once knew!) It tends to break the spirit, to destroy the peace, and to mar the happiness of life! The soul of such one cannot be consoled! (i.e. Death of peace!)
2. **It often leads to physical death itself!** When the spirit is broken, and the heart pines away under the influence of this sorrow of the world, then depression and despair may set in! Men may lay violent hold and take the life of someone they blame or even may take their own lives! Life is too often brought to a close under the influence of such sorrow!
3. **It tends to eternal death!** When there is no looking to God; no looking for Him to pardon, then there can be no life!

Verse 11a – "For behold this self-same thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort..."

He's saying "see in your own case what godly sorrow has produced!" The object of Paul is to illustrate the effects of godly sorrow, to which he had referred in 2 Corinthians 7:10. He appeals, therefore, to their own case, and says that it was beautifully illustrated in them!

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Verse 11b – "...what carefulness..."

This word translated as "*carefulness*" properly denotes *speed, haste; or diligence, earnest effort, forwardness.*

The idea here is that **they used great diligence to remove the evils which existed among them!** They didn't drag their feet! They went right to work to remove them! When men are thoroughly convinced of sin, they should set about removing it with the utmost diligence!

Verse 11c – "...yea, what clearing of yourselves..."

The word "*clearing*" comes from the same word we get our word "*apology*" from and means *a plea or defence before a tribunal or elsewhere or an apology for what had been done.*

i.e. They wanted to free themselves from this that caused them to be blamed! They wanted to clear themselves from the blame! The only way to do that was to right what had been wrong!

Verse 11d – "...yea, what indignation."

Indignation speaks of a *Holy displeasure at one's self because of sin.*

One effect of true repentance is to produce decided hatred of sin!

It is not mere regret, or sorrow; it is positive hatred! There is a deep indignation against it as an evil and a bitter thing!

Verse 11e – "yea, what fear."

Fear lest it should not be entirely removed!

Fear lest the thing should be repeated!

Verse 11f – "yea, what vehement desire."

This may mean their fervent desire to remove the cause of complaint, (i.e. They had an attitude of, "*Let's do this!*")

Or this could be speaking of their anxious desire to show the Apostle

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Paul that they had corrected these things! Or it could be a combination of both of these!

Verse 11g – “yea, what zeal.”

Zeal to remove the sin, and to please the Apostle and God! They got right down to business with this!

Verse 11h – “yea, what revenge!”

“revenge” = “vindication or retribution”

The idea is, that they immediately set about the work of doing what the apostle Paul said they should do — 1 Corinthians 5:5, 13

Vs 5 “Deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh...”

Vs 13 “...put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

Verse 11i – “In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

The sense of this is that they had entirely acquitted themselves of blame in this business. He does not mean that none of them had been to blame, or that the church had been free from fault, but he means that, by their zeal and their readiness to make things right they had cleared themselves of any further blame in this business and had become, so far as this was concerned, "clear" or pure!

Verse 12

In this verse Paul states the main reason why he had written to them on the subject. It was not principally on account of the man who had done wrong, or the man who had been injured; but because of his great care for the Church's welfare! The welfare of the Church is paramount!

Verse 13

Doing the right thing...repenting and being obedient to God...brought comfort to the Corinthian Church...which brought comfort to Paul!

They now were a happy people because they obeyed God!

That condition brought joy to Titus which in turn brought joy to Paul!

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Verse 14

This seems to imply that Paul had spoken most favourably to Titus of the Corinthians before he went among them. He had probably expressed his belief that he would be kindly received; that they would be disposed to listen to him, and to comply with the directions of the apostle!

“I am not ashamed.”

It had all turned out to be true. Titus had found it as Paul said it would be. All his expectations were realized

Verse 15

Titus' love for this Church had increased...not only because of their obedience...but also because of how he had been received and treated by them!

Verse 16

Paul had ample proof that they were now disposed to obey God, and to put away everything that is offensive to him.