

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 7:5-16

God Comforts the Depressed

I. Conflict and Misery (v.5) – ⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

II. Comfort Through Others (v.6-7) – ⁶ But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; ⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

III. Comfort Through the Corinthians (v.8-13a) – ⁸ For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it— *for* I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while— ⁹ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. ¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. ¹² So although I wrote to you, *it was* not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God. ¹³ For this reason we have been comforted.

IV. Comfort for the Sake of Others (v.13b-16) – And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴ For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be *the* truth. ¹⁵ His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you

Home Group Helps Questions

1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some common causes of depression?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Is depression always sinful?
- Is depression sometimes sinful?
- When is depression not necessarily sinful?
- What are some ways mentioned in this passage in which God “comforts the depressed?”

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul mentions two types of sorrow: worldly sorrow and godly sorrow.
- What are some differences between the two?
- What are the different results?
- Give some examples of both.

4. Reflection Question(s):

- In vs. 11, Paul describes seven evidences of the genuine faith and repentance of the Corinthians. Each evidence begins with the word “what.”
- How might we better demonstrate these evidences in our lives and in our church?

5. Application Question(s):

- See Col. 3:1-2. How does this verse provide a clue to the best way to help you overcome depression?

March 6th, AD 2022