

Last week, 2 Corinthians 7:1: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved:

What promises? We find the first promises from God in (V16) of the previous chapter, which Paul quoted from Leviticus 26:12:

"As God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people",

Then, in (V17-18), Paul AGAIN quoted truths from the OT scriptures, to teach the church @ Corinth about holiness, separation from sin, and the spiritual dangers an unequal yoke! But WHERE was he quoting from?

The conundrum here is, which OT passage was Paul citing when he wrote this? Have you ever noticed that when writers of the NT wrote, "as it is written", it is at times very difficult to find the passage or passages that they are referring to in the OT. In fact, you will find that NT writers (at times) cited truths from MORE than one OT passage, they combined passages and truths from the OT in the same way that we often combine multiple passages of scripture to teach one truth!

Charles Hodge wrote: The concluding verses of this chapter are an instructive illustration of the way in which the NT writers quote the OT. They often quote a translation which does not strictly adhere to the original. They often quote according to the sense and not according to the letter. They often blend-together different passages of scripture, so as to give the sense, NOT of any one passage, but the combined sense of several. They quote the scriptures as saying what is nowhere found in so many words, but what nevertheless the scriptures CLEARLY TEACH".

What Paul wrote in (V17-18), is a combination of OT truths expressed in:

Isaiah 52:11, Ezra 10:11, Jeremiah 31:1, 9, and 2 Samuel 7:14.

You will find this in many NT writings, the writer will say, "as it is written", but it is not necessarily taken from only (1) OT passage, but from several.

2 Corinthians 7:2: Paul continued to defend his ministry to the church:

We have wronged and hurt none of you, we have not corrupted you from God, but the ministry of Christ, which we preach has brought you nigh unto God, and we have in no way taken advantage of you for our own personal benefit or gain.

And yet, in Paul's defense of himself and the ministry of Christ, he feared that some in the church might think that he was condemning them for not receiving him, but that was not the case. Once again, we read of Paul's love for them.

(7:3): "For I have said this before, (and I will happily say it again) that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you". (From 6:11-13)

2 Corinthians 7:4-7:

Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth was full of rebukes and stern warnings about their behavior, but here Paul tells them about how anxious he was and how he longed to know if they had received and followed what he had written to them; he wanted them to know how much he loved them.

This was an internal struggle for the Apostle Paul. What would become of the church at Corinth after receiving his letter, which was full of admonishments and rebukes?

After his 1st letter had (for some time) been delivered to Corinth, he was at Troas, (northwest Turkey-2 Corinthians 2:12-13), God had opened a gospel door to him; a gospel door that was previously closed, but he couldn't get his mind off the Church at Corinth... Had they fallen further away from the Lord? Had they continued in their sin? Or, had they repented?

Just trust the Lord Paul! I love Paul's realness here; he just couldn't bear sitting still, he had no rest in his spirit, he had to do something!

So, he departed from Troas for Macedonia, and a gospel door that had been opened to him by the Lord! But he could not settle himself, he had to know how they received his 1st letter, he had to find Titus. If Titus was on his way to Troas, they would run into each other in route. 2

Corinthians 7:5-7

When Paul got the news from Titus on how the church had responded to his first letter, he greatly rejoiced!

2 Corinthians 7:4: "Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation"

2 Corinthians 7:8: Paul's struggle with the severity of his first letter:

He regretted that his letter might have been too stern, and that it might have brought too much sorrow to the church, and especially to those that had not been involved in those sins that existed in the church.

As a child of God, whenever you rebuke or correct someone, it should be because you love them... Here in (V8) Paul tells us about the struggle of his heart with how stern he was in his 1st letter... WHY was he struggling? THEY HAD SINNED, they needed to be rebuked! He struggled because of how much he loved them!

Beloved, we must ALWAYS correct in love and not in anger!

These were real and genuine feelings that came from Paul's heart toward this church, and these feelings should come from your heart whenever you are led to rebuke or correct someone! It should never make us feel superior or better than someone after we rebuke them, with, a puffed up, "I guess I told them", attitude..... NO brethren! Paul teaches us here how careful we must be WHEN, and AFTER we find ourselves in the place of correcting someone. Make sure "love" is your motivation!

We must always speak the truth in love!

2 Corinthians 7:9-10: The right sorrow

No one enjoys seeing someone suffering, and in grief and sorrow for their sins, but when that grief and sorrow leads them to gospel and godly repentance, we greatly rejoice!

Paul's anxiety was quieted and his prayer for the Corinthians was answered, their sorrow did lead them to repent, and to forsake and turn away from their sins. His heart desire from what he wrote in his 1st letter came to pass. He therefore rejoiced!

Their hearts were changed! That is what we should desire when, as in this case, a brother or sister in Christ, whom we love has sinned, and we've lovingly corrected them; we want to see them repent, and "made sorry after a godly manner"! End of (V9):

"That ye might receive damage by us in nothing"; Paul rejoiced that his letter didn't hurt them as he feared, but that God used for their good and restoration! He was so afraid that he might have injured them.

2 Corinthians 7:10: (2) Types of sorrow: Godly sorrow and the sorrow of the world:

1st: The sorrow of the world: What is that? What does it look like? This is the same sorrow and grief that comes into one's life because of THEIR DELIBERATE and INTENTIONAL SINS against God, but in their sorrow for their sins, there are no vertical thoughts of God, and that they've sinned against God.

The world sorrows for their sins without any thoughts of God, this leads them to feel sorry for themselves in their sins, and to blame others for their sins, AND THEN, worst of all, to be angry at God and to resent Him because of THEIR SINS and how their lives have turned out.

Genesis 4:4-14, 27:34, 38, 1 Kings 21:1-4, Matthew 27:4-5

Judas regretted his sin, but he did not repent of his sin against God and against His Christ. Sadly, there are so many in the world (like Judas) who are immersed in their sins, and in the terrible consequences of their sins and bad choices, but... who also refuse to turn from their sins to Christ.

I've personally heard many sinners blame God for the misery of their lives, and for their grief which they suffer as a result of their own sins, when they should put the blame squarely upon their own heads where it belongs! THIS is the sorrow of the world, which brings forth and perpetuates spiritual death in them!

"BUT godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of"

Godly sorrow meaning, a sorrow for our sins, which are against God, and against Christ, which lead us to turn away from our sins to God through Christ, and to seek restoration and forgiveness with God, whom we have sinned against!

This is good sorrow, GODLY SORROW, or as Paul wrote in (V11), this is sorrowing after a godly sort! When you sin,

Christian, your sorrow must always (FIRST) be because you've sinned against God! This must always lead you to godly repentance!

Like THIS MAN that had sinned this grievous sin in 1 Corinthians 5, which Paul sternly rebuked the church for, but the man that had sinned had sorrowed after a godly sort and repented unto God!

Psalm 80:3-7,19, 2 Samuel 12:13, Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12

Finally, this godly repentance was in one who was a believer. So how do we understand this being repentance to salvation?

This is that godly sorrow that worketh (or produces) our first and initial repentance unto salvation, BUT ALSO a consistent and continual repentance unto salvation in our lives as believers.

Understand that repentance IS NOT something that happens once and initially in the new birth, but repentance continues in our lives; we are to always be turning from our sins to Christ! This is that repentance unto salvation!

Remember, we are continuing to be saved with every passing day, until we are finally saved on that day when we shall enter the eternal presence of Christ. 1

Peter 1:9

Sorrow for your sins is good, but if your sorrow is not directed toward God, whom you sinned against, your sorrow is the sorrow of the world, which produces only death.

But godly sorrow produces repentance unto salvation, and this repentance is NOT to be repented of!