

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS  
PAUL'S JOY IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH  
2 CORINTHIANS 7:6-10

Last week we saw how:

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

We talked about how Paul had expected to meet up with Titus at Troas, but it didn't pan out—Titus didn't come. Which caused some anxiety on the part of the Apostle Paul.

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

*Verse 7a – “And not by his coming only.”*

Yes, it brought wonderful joy to Paul when he saw Titus, but there was even a greater joy produced when he heard the news from Titus that his previous letter had brought the desired positive results!

*Verse 7b – “...but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you.”*

Titus was satisfied and delighted with what he found at Corinth! He not only had been kindly treated, but he had seen the positive effect in the Corinthians themselves that had been hoped for from Paul's previous letter, and that brought great comfort to Titus!

The great comfort of Titus, produced both a joy and a consolation in the Apostle Paul!

**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**!

So the joy and comfort of Titus brought joy and comfort to the heart of Paul! Normally the joy and comfort of one friend will normally show itself through the heart of another. A Christian cannot well be happy and joyous without making other Christians happy and joyous also!

**That's one reason why we need to “Rejoice in the LORD always”!**

*Verse 7c – “...when he told us your earnest desire...”*

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Their earnest desire to comply with the Apostle's commands, and to reform the abuses which existed in the Church, and which had given him so much pain.

*Verse 7d – “...your mourning...”*

Produced by the epistle. Your deep repentance over the sins which had prevailed in the church.

*Verse 7e – “...your fervent mind toward me.”*

*"Your zeal for me."* It denotes that they were lovingly attached to Paul with an earnest desire to comply with his wishes.

*Verse 7f – “So that I rejoiced the more.”*

i.e. Paul not only rejoiced at Titus' coming, but he rejoiced the more at what Titus told him of the Corinthians! Under any circumstances the coming of Titus would have been an occasion of joy; but it was especially so from the account that he Paul regarding them.

III. PAUL HAD JOY IN THE CORINTHIANS' OBEDIENCE!

*Verse 8a – “For though I made you sorry with a letter...”*

In that first epistle Paul had felt it necessary to **reprove them** for their contentions, carnality, and other problems they exhibited as well as reprove them for gross sin they were tolerating in the Church.

That epistle was fitted to produce pain in them—as severe and just reproof rightfully does! But Paul felt very anxious about its effect on them! It was painful to him to write it, and he was well aware that it must have caused deep distress among them to be reproved like that!

*Verse 8b – “...I do not repent...”*

The word **“repent”** here means **“to regret or care afterwards.”** Paul was right in his rebuke and so ultimately he didn't have any **“regrets”** about having rebuked them! And, thankfully, it had produced the desired results!

*Verse 8c – “...though I did repent...”*

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Again, the word here used does not denote repentance in the sense in which that word is commonly understood, as if any wrong had been done. It is not the language of remorse.

It can denote here nothing more than an uneasiness which a good man feels, not from the consciousness of having done wrong, but from a heart full of tenderness for others that what was said might be received the wrong way!

Have you ever said or done something that needed to be said or done and immediately said in your heart, *"Well I really didn't want to have to do that, (or say that) but it was necessary!"*

So understand the phrase "...though I did repent..." here is not to be understood that Paul meant to say he had done anything wrong. As an Apostle, his words to them were the inspired Word of God!

What he had said was proper and right! But he was a man of deep feeling, and of tender affections! He was pained at the necessity of giving reproof! He really didn't to have to do it, but it was necessary!

(e.g. Parental discipline of a child.)

***Verse 8d – "...for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season"***

Paul perceived the good effect of the epistle. He perceived that it produced the kind of sorrow in the Corinthians which he desired.

It had produced some long-term good results in them! The sorrow it caused in them was only for a short time, but the good effects were still abiding!

So Paul had reason to rejoice that he sent the epistle to them because it produced and accomplished what he had wished and desired.

***Verse 9a – "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry..."***

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Paul didn't receive any pleasure in giving pain to any one, or in witnessing the distress of any of them!

When people are brought to repentance of their sin under preaching, a godly preacher doesn't find pleasure in their grief as such! We preachers aren't desirous of making men unhappy by calling them to repentance, and we have no pleasure in the deep distress of mind which is often produced by our preaching!

It is only because such sorrow is an indication of their return to God, and will be followed by happiness and by the fruits of good living, that we find any pleasure in it, or that we seek to produce it!

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

It was not the mere grief that Paul was looking for; it was not sorrow producing melancholy, gloom, or despair! But rather it was sorrow that led to an ***"about face"***, a change and reformation.

It was a sorrow that was followed by a putting away of the evil for the existence of which there had been occasion to reprove them!

The word *"repentance"* here is translated from a different word from that which, in 2 Corinthians 7:8, where Paul said, "I did *repent*."

This word *"repentance"* indicates a different state of mind. It properly means a change of mind or purpose. It denotes a change for the better; a change of mind that is durable and productive in what it brings; a change which amounts to a reformation.

The sense here is, that it produced a change, a reformation. It was such sorrow for their sin as to lead them to reform, and to put away the evils which had existed among them. It was this fact, and not that they had been made sorry, that led Paul to rejoice!

***Verse 9c – "...after a godly manner..."***

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*"According to God."*

**Verse 9d – "...that ye might receive damage by us in nothing."**

The word translated "*receive damage*" means, "*to bring loss upon any one; to receive loss or detriment.*"

The sense here seems to be, "*So that on the whole no real injury was done you in any respect by me.*"

Now they were indeed put to pain and grief by Paul's reproof. They sorrowed. But it did not injure them considering the end result! In fact, it was a benefit to them!

Sinners are gainers in happiness, in the end, by all the pain of repentance produced by the preaching. No person suffers loss by being told of his faults if he repents and gets right with God

**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.

**"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! (Let's elaborate on this:)**

**It is sorrow that is in accordance with what God demands in a return to Him!**

**It is a sorrow in which His truth is fitted to produce in the heart!**

2. **"Godly sorrow" implies such sorrow exercised towards God**

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**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 the pardon available from Him.**

**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 just 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 related to the same word used in 2 Corinthians 7:8 which means **"Not to be regretted."** Here the word means **"irrevocable"**.

i.e. There is no mourning of having repented and changed one's life! There are no *regrets* over such repentance and change of life. It is that which the mind approves, and which it will always approve. 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!

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

All sorrow which is not toward God, and which does not arise from

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just views of sin as committed, against God, or lead 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.

**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 and family 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 life as one once knew!) It tends to break the spirit, to destroy the peace, and to mar the happiness of life!
2. **It often leads to physical death itself!** When the spirit is broken, and the heart pines away under the influence of the unalleviated sorrow, 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. It produces murmuring, repining, complaining, fretfulness against God, and thus leads to his displeasure, and to the condemnation and ruin of the soul.

**Conclusion**

Next week we'll see how Paul commends them for their sorrowing after a

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godly sort! i.e. The Corinthians Church was a good example of the godly sorrow and repentance that the Apostle Paul just spoke of!