

***“True Repentance”***  
***2 Corinthians 7:8-11***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Begin This Morning - By Turning In Our Bibles To:
  - Paul's **First** Letter To The Corinthians:
    - As We Continue To See:
      - The Relationship Between The Apostle Paul & The Corinthian Church:
        - Restored - After A Difficult & Painful Issue Had Been Resolved!
    - We're Not Exactly Sure:
      - What The Original Issue Was:
        - That Paul Was Dealing With In **Second** Corinthians 7 - Where We Will Get Back To In A Moment!
        - But It Is Quite Possible That It Was Something That Paul Had Addressed Already:
          - In His **First** Letter To The Corinthians!
    - In 1 Corinthians 5:1-2:
      - There Was Sin In The Corinthian Camp:
        - And It Seemed That The Entire Corinthian Church Was Not Dealing With It Properly!
          - They May Not Have Condoned The Sin, But They Did Not Confront The Sin In Their Midst!
        - And So We Read - "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. / And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you!"
          - And Then - Paul Gave Them Some Specific Instructions On How To Deal With The One Who Was Committing That Sin!
2. Now - Just Like In Our Own Lives:
  - Sin Often Begets Other Sin!
    - One Sin Often Leads To Another!
      - And It Appears As If This Is What Happened To The Corinthians!
        - They Did Not Listen To Paul's Instructions, And Continued To Let That Known Sin Fester Within Their Church!
    - This May Have Been The Reason Why:
      - Eventually Paul Had To Return To Corinth:
        - To Make A "Sorrowful Visit" To Them:
          - In Order To Make Things Right!
            - Paul Talks About This Unscheduled Visit In 2 Corinthians 2:1 - "But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness!"
    - But Even With This Personal Visit:
      - The Corinthians Did Not Respond Properly:
        - When They Were Confronted With Their Sin!
          - And This Caused Paul Even Further Pain & Sorrow In His Heart!
            - And So - He Decided To Deal With The Issue One More Time:
              - In The Form Of A Letter!
    - And It Was A "Sorrowful Letter!"
      - Which He Also Describes In:
        - 2 Corinthians 2:3-4 - "And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all. / For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you." / 2:9 - "For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things!"
      - And He Sent This "Sorrowful Letter" With:
        - His Faithful Partner In The Gospel:
          - Titus!
  - 3. And This Leads Us To Our Text This Morning:
    - Where He Now Shares With The Corinthians:
      - His Own Reaction:
        - When He Finally Met Up With Titus:

- And Heard The Good News That The Corinthian Church Finally Responded To & Dealt Properly With:

- The Sin & The Sinner In Their Midst!

- And We Read About This In:

- 2 Corinthians 7:5-11 - "For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. / Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus; / And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more!"

- "For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. / Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. / For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. / For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter!"

- The Verses That We Will Look At This Morning:

- 7:8-11 - All Have To Do With:

- The Corinthians Response To Paul's "Sorrowful Letter" To Them!

- And It Was A Response Of True Repentance!

- And We Can Learn A Lot About The Need Of & The Nature Of True Repentance In Our Own Lives From These Verses!

- And So - The First Thing We See Is:

### **1. *The Focus On True Repentance!***

- In 7:8-9a - Where Paul Explains That:

- This Is Why He Wrote That "Sorrowful Letter" In The First Place!

- It Was So That There Would Be The Right Kind Of Sorrow For Their Sin - Which Would Lead To Repentance!

- 7:8-9a - "For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. / Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance!"

- From This We Learn That There Often Needs To Be:

- A Special Confrontation:

- Of Sin - In Our Lives & In Our Church!

- Paul Wrote His "Sorrowful Letter" In Order To Confront The Sin That They Had Been Harboring In Their Church!

- He Says - "For Though I Made You Sorry!" (7:8)

- You See - Sorrow Was Not Just The Result Of Paul's Letter:

- It Was His Intended Purpose!

- There Needed To Be Some Grief & Sorrow Over Their Sin!

- And Sometimes This Is What Is Needed In Our Own Lives!

- Confrontation Of Sin:

- Can Be Difficult & Painful!

- **IE:** But Like A Doctor Setting A Broken Bone - It Is Necessary For The Overall Health Of The Patient!

- And This Is What Paul Did Through His Previous Letter!

- But Along With His Letter Of Confrontation:

- We Also See:

- A Special Concern!

- He Writes - "I Do Not Repent, Though I Did Repent!"

- See - Confrontation Of Sin:

- Must Always Be Done In The Spirit Of Love!

- And As Paul Wrote His Confrontational Letter - He Was Experiencing Some Feelings Of "Regret!" - "I Did Repent" Paul Says!

- He Was Feeling Some Apprehension:

- Before / During / After Writing It!

- And Even While He Waited!
  - But Now - After Hearing The Outcome Of His Letter:
    - He Could Also Say:
      - "I Do Not Repent!"
        - Paul Now Has Absolutely No Regrets About Writing The Letter!
          - Because God Used It To Bring Them To True Repentance!
  - In Fact - He Immediately Offers To The Corinthians:
- A Special Comfort!
  - 7:8 - "For I Perceive That The Same Epistle Hath Made You Sorrow, Though It Were But For A Season!"
    - Paul Knew That His Confrontation Of Their Sin:
      - Would Be Painful & Sorrowful:
        - But It Would Not Last Forever!
          - IE: Kind Of Like Taking Off A Band-Aid!
  - And It Seems Like Paul Wants To Encourage Them:
    - That Even Though Their Sorrow Over Sin:
      - Was The Proper Response:
        - It Would Not Be Their Permanent Condition!
  - We See This Also:
    - In Hebrews 12:11 - "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby!"
      - Now - Because Of Their Sorrow:
        - They Could Experience The Joy Of Forgiveness & Renewed Fellowship!
  - Because Their Sorrow Turned Into:
- A Special Change!
  - 7:9a - "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance!"
    - This Is What Paul & The Lord Was After!
      - Not Just Sorrow - But A Sorrow:
        - That Leads To A Genuine Change Of Heart!
  - Not Just Remorse Over Sin:
    - But Repentance - True Repentance!
      - And This Change Of Heart:
        - Will Lead To A Change In Their Minds, Their Hearts, Their Wills, And Their Lives!
  - To Repent Means That You Will Pursue After:
    - The Right Attitudes, The Right Affections, The Right Aims, And The Right Actions!
      - It Means You Will Turn From Sin:
        - Which Causes Sorrow!
      - And You Will Turn To The Lord:
        - Who Alone Gives Joy!
- And This Is Why:
  - Paul Made Repentance - The Special Focus:
    - Of His Letter & Of His Desire:
      - For The Corinthian Church!
  - There Needs To Be A Renewed Focus:
    - On Repentance In Our Own Lives:
      - As Christians & As A Church!
        - True Repentance!
  - Because There Are Still Sins:
    - In Our Own Hearts:
      - And In Our Own Church:
        - That "So Easily Beset Us!" (Hebrews 12:1)
  - And God Has Given Us The Responsibility:
    - Through The Power Of His Holy Spirit - To Address Sins:
      - Truthfully & Lovingly:
        - In Order To Maintain Our Fellowship With The Lord & With Each Other!
  - But Remember What True Repentance Brings!
    - "The "Peaceable Fruit Of Righteousness!"

- As Well As Renewed Joy In & From The Lord!
- **True Repentance Does Not Loiter In Sorrow! IE:** “No Loitering!” Instead - It Leads To Peace & Joy!
- But Then - We Further See:

## 2. **The Foundation Of True Repentance!**

- In 7:9b-10 - “For ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. / For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death!”
  - The Foundation Of True Repentance:
    - Is Not Just Any Kind Of Sorrow & Remorse:
      - It Is A “Godly Sorrow!”
      - And So - We Need To Understand:
  - The Nature Of Godly Sorrow!
    - 9b - “For Ye Were Made Sorry After A Godly Manner!”
      - The Phrase “After A Godly Manner” Is:
        - A Translation Of Just Two Words:
          - Which Means - “According To God!” / Or - “In Accordance With God!”
        - Now - The Meaning Of This Is Key:
          - To Understanding What True Repentance Is & Where True Repentance Comes From!
      - It Means That When You Experience Sorrow Over Sin:
        - It Is In Accordance With:
          - God’s Design & God’s Desire For Your Sorrow!
            - It Means That Your Sorrow Is:
              - In Harmony With Holiness!
                - God’s Holiness! You See Your Sin In Its True Light!
                  - In The Light Of God & His Glory!
                  - You Do Not Rationalize Away Your Sin, Or Call “Evil Good” & “Good Evil!”
                    - It Also Means That Your Sorrow Is:
                      - In Harmony With Humility!
                        - Your Humility! You See Yourself As Isaiah Did - Isaiah 6:5 - “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”
                          - Also - Your Sorrow Is:
                        - In Harmony With Honor!
                          - A Desire To Honor God!
                    - When There Is This Kind Of True Repentance Of Sin:
                      - It Shows That God Himself Is In It!
                        - We Also See:
                  - The Need For Godly Sorrow!
                    - 7:9 - “That Ye Might Receive Damage By Us In Nothing!”
                      - Without Godly Sorrow & True Repentance:
                        - The Apostle Paul Would Have Had To Go To The Next Step:
                          - Of Church Discipline!
                      - And In This Situation:
                        - It Would Have To Be “Church-Wide” Discipline!
                          - Where - Because If They Continued To Persist In Their Sin:
                            - They Would Be Deprived Of:
                              - Christian Intimacy & Fellowship!
                              - Christian Influence!
                              - And Even Their Christian Identity!
                        - Isn’t This What Was Going On Later:
                          - In The Church Of Ephesus - Revelation 2:4-5 - “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. / Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent!”
                            - This Can Happen To Any Church That Harbors Known Sin & Error In Their Midst!
                        - But Since The Corinthian Church Did Repent:
                          - They Were No Longer In Danger Of This Kind Of Damage & Discipline!

- Instead - They Experienced Full Restoration & Full Reconciliation!
- Because - As We Read In 7:10 - “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death!”
- This Great Principle:
  - Is True For Any Individual & For Any Church!
  - God Uses “Godly Sorrow” & “Repentance” To:
    - Lead People To True Salvation!
    - This Does Not Mean That “Repentance” Is What Saves Someone - But It Is What God Uses To Bring You To Saving Faith In Jesus Christ!
    - To Experience His Forgiveness & His Fellowship!
  - And Then - Any Sorrow You May Have Experienced:
    - Will Be Seen In Its True Light!
    - ***You Will Never Be Sorry:***
      - ***About Your Sorrow:***
        - ***When It Leads You To The Lord!***
- But Then - We Also See:

### 3. ***The Fruit Of True Repentance!***

- How Did Paul Know That The Corinthian Church Really Repented From Their Sins – Against Him & Against The Lord?
  - He Knew It By Their Fruit - The Fruit Of True Repentance - 7:11 - “For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter!”
    - Paul Saw This Fruit In Their Lives - And He Wanted Them To See It As Well - To Encourage Them - “Behold This Selfsame Thing!”
    - See:
  - The Overall Effect Of Repentance!
    - It “Wrought” - Brought About - In Them:
      - A Special Diligence - And Carefulness!
      - Restoration In Their Relationships With Paul & The Lord Became:
        - Their Number One Priority!
    - And More Than Likely:
      - As Quickly As Titus Came To Them:
        - That Is How Titus Left Them:
          - Because They Wanted Him To Tell Paul About Their Response!
          - Also See:
  - The Inward Effect Of Repentance - It Brought About:
    - A Deep Feeling:
      - Of Guilt - Over Sin!
        - “Yea - What Clearing Of Yourselves!”
          - They Personally Acknowledged Their Sin & Wanted The Opportunity To Admit Their Wrongdoing To Paul - In Order To Correct What They Had Done!
    - A Deep Feeling:
      - Of Grief - Over Sin!
        - “Yea - What Indignation!”
          - An Intense Feeling Of Displeasure! To Be Vexed Over Your Own Sin!
        - Romans 7:24 - “O wretched man that I am!”
    - A Deep Feeling:
      - Of Gravity - About Sin!
        - “Yea - What Fear!”
          - A Fear Of God That Reveals The Serious Nature Of God & Of Sin!
        - That Sin Is Not A Light Thing!
          - It Is Serious! So - No More Excuses! No More Ignoring! No More Rationalization!
  - The Outward Effect Of Repentance - It Brought About:
    - A Renewed Affection!
      - “Yea - What Vehement Desire!”

- Same Thing We Read Back In 7:7 - And Part Of Titus Report To Paul!
  - An Intense Love & Desire To Have Their Relationship With Paul Restored!
  - To See Him & Be With Him Once Again!
- A Renewed Ardor!
  - “Yea - What Zeal!”
    - A Zeal - For The Lord & His Truth & His Righteousness & His Service!
    - Also Reported To Paul Back In 7:7 - So It Was Something That Could Be Seen In Their Lives!
      - **IE**: Zeal - To Boil With Heat! Like A Pot Of Boiling Water! Can Be Seen / Heard / Felt!
  - They Had A Renewed Dedication:
    - To The Right Kind Of Christian Worship, Witness, Walk!
- A Renewed Action!
  - “Yea - What Revenge!”
    - To See God’s Justice Done!
      - Especially Dealing With The Sin In Their Midst!
  - This Meant That The Church:
    - Performed The Appropriate Measures Of Church Discipline In Order To Maintain Purity Within The Church!
- And All Of These:
  - Were Clear Fruits Of Their True Repentance:
    - Before God & Before Paul!
    - And This Is What True Repentance Will Look Like:
      - In Our Own Lives!

**Conclusion:**

1. But What Happens When True Repentance Takes Place?
  - See This In The Last Part Of 7:11:
    - “In All Things Ye Have Approved Yourselves To Be Clear In This Matter!”
      - True Repentance Brings:
        - True Resolution!
          - This Is What It Means “To Be Clear!” - The Offense Committed Has Been Cleared Up!
          - Also:
            - True Repentance Brings:
              - True Restoration!
                - With God & With Other Christians! Leading To Full Forgiveness & Fellowship!
  - 2. And This All Flows From The Grace Of God:
    - Through Jesus Christ!
      - He Uses Repentance In Our Lives:
        - To Bring Us Into A Closer Relationship With Himself!
    - Is There A Need For Repentance:
      - In Our Life Today?
        - Some Sin Or Sins:
          - That You Are Harboring In Your Own Heart?
      - Then - As Jesus Said:
        - In Matthew 3:8 - “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance!”
    - It First Starts:
      - With Confrontation & Conviction:
        - Of Sin!
          - Are You Open To The Lord & His Word?
            - Are You Teachable - Psalm 139:23-24 - “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: / And see if there be any wicked way in me?”
    - Then - It Continues:
      - With Godly Sorrow:
        - Over Sin!

- Not A Worldly Sorrow:
  - That Looks Inward!
- But A Godly Sorrow:
  - That Looks Upward To The Lord!
- It Is A Sorrow That:
  - Humbles Your Heart Under The Holiness Of God!
    - Psalm 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise!"
- And Then - That "Godly Sorrow" Will Lead To True Repentance!
  - And The Fruit Of Repentance:
    - Will Be Seen:
      - Not Only By You!
        - But By Others!
          - "Something's Changed!"
  - Something Has Changed!
    - You Have Changed!
      - Within & Without!
        - More & More Into The Image Of Christ Himself!
- 3. Because:
  - 7:10 - "For Godly Sorrow Worketh Repentance To Salvation!"

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