

2 Corinthians 7

Jesus

Ch. 6 Promises of God

I will dwell in you/I will Walk among you/I will Be your God/I will Be your Father...

1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Correct Response to God's Magnificent Promises: Repentance
Let us Cleanse Ourselves

Repent: NT 57X gr. *met-an-o-eh'-o* Change one's mind for better. Heartily make amends with abhorrence of one's past sins. God given [later]

Participatory Sanctification: Cooperating w/the Holy Spirit's Conviction

How can we expect God to purify *our* hearts when we are *continually indulging* our eyes, ears, and hands in what is forbidden, and in what tends **to increase and bring into action all the evil tendencies of the soul?**" [Clarke]

Cleanse ourselves...not our work apart from God, but [God's] work that awaits our will and effort [Guzik]

- **Filth of the Flesh:** That which is Seen Sexual sin. Idolatry. Sorcery. Outbursts of wrath. Etc.
- **Filth of the Spirit:** That which is Unseen. Wrong Attitudes/Motivations. Bitterness. Spiritual Pride...
 - Pastors 3 Point Message confronting Legalism/Self righteousness in the church. Jon Courson
 1. 15 Million people are starving to death right now
 2. Most Christians don't give a damn
 3. Most of you are more concerned w/me using the word damn than about 15 mill starving people
- **Cleanse Yourself of filth:** gr. *katharizo*. Cauterize; burn a wound in order to cleanse or cure

Burning Smell/Searing Pain? Result of putting Adam to death
Cooperating w/the Spirit's Conviction of our Sin by our Action

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God's Cleansing begins w/Our Cooperating
Confess: **If** we Agree with God re. our sin...**Then** He will cleanse us

Result of God's Cleansing? Perfecting of Holiness. Set apart from sin to Jesus

Hebrews 12:14b [Pursue] ...holiness, without which no one will see the Lord

1) Hear His Word of Conviction 2) Act on His Word in Repentance

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man **cleanse his way?** By **taking heed according to Your word.**

We are 100% *Positionally Holy*
We desire to be *Practically Holy* when Jesus returns

1 John 3:2b ...when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him [His return] **purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

He dwells in you/He walks with you/He is your God and Father
Having these promises...Cleanse yourselves.
Repentance/Restoration/Refreshment
IOWs Holiness is Refreshing!

I. Stout Repentance Unrelenting

2 Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. **3** I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that **you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.**

Undergirding Attitude toward Paul? Suspicion
Source: False Teachers/Corinthian Gossipers

- E.g., Taking over for fallen Pastor

Open your Hearts up to Us
IOWs Receive us/Treat us as those who desire your best

4 Great is my **boldness** of speech **toward you**, great is my **boasting on your behalf.**

I know I speak as boldly when I correct you
I also speak boldly to others when I boast about you

If my boldness in correcting you is great...
My desire to boast about you is even greater; for example...

4b ...I am **filled with comfort.** I am **exceedingly joyful** in **all our tribulation.** **5** For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, **our bodies had no rest**, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.

Circumstances in Macedonia as Paul penned this 2 Corinthians?
Hard-pressed on every side. Perplexed. Persecuted. Forsaken. Struck down...

No sleep/Trouble all around/Conflicts w/out/Fears w/in...
Should I have sent that Letter?/Should I have sent Titus?

Paul finally received news from Titus about Corinth reception of the severe Letter
The news filled Paul w/Comfort/Exceeding Joy even in tribulation

- Macedonia was very difficult for Paul...

6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast comforted us...

Tribulation left me downcast...**But God** Comforts the Downcast
Downcast gr. *tap-i-nos'* lit. *not able to rise far from the ground*

Psalm 42:5 [The Psalmist knew despair and hope] Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for **I shall yet praise Him** For the help of His countenance.

2 Corinthians 1:8 [Paul knew discouragement] For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened **beyond measure, above strength**, so that we **despaired even of life**.

Wait on a Faithful God vs Wallow in Self-Pity

Isaiah 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "**My way is hidden from the Lord**, And my just claim is **passed over by my God**"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But **those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength**; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Wait for God who desires to comfort when we're downcast
Is your head not far from the ground? Jesus stoops down to lift us up

Luke 13:10 [Jesus teaching in Synagogue] 11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity **eighteen years**, and was **bent over and could in no way raise herself up**. 12 But **when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him** and said to her, "Woman, **you are loosed** from your infirmity." 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was **made straight**, and glorified God. 14 **But the ruler** of the synagogue answered with indignation...

The devil desires to keep us Down/In Despair
Nevertheless... Our God is the God who Comforts/Lifts up the Downcast...How?

6b ... [And we were comforted] **by the coming of Titus**, 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was **comforted in you**

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies and God of all comfort**...who **comforts us in all our tribulation**, that we may be **able to comfort** those who are in any trouble, with the **comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God**.

God's Comfort is Contagious Through God's People
He uses us to comfort others with His comfort. We are His hands/feet

- He used the Corinthians to Comfort Titus
- He used Titus' comfort to comfort Paul
- He uses Paul's comfort to comfort us

Comfort: gr. *par-ak-al-eh'-o* to call to one's side, call for, summon to admonish, exhort, entreat, beseech to strive to appease by entreaty to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation

1 Samuel 23:16 [David in Tribulation/Despair/Head sinking...] Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said to him, **"Do not fear..."**

Luke 22:43 [Jesus in agony in Gethsemane] Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, **strengthening Him.**

Every life has a Gethsemane
Every Gethsemane has an angel...Don't miss him. He may not look like you imagine

Titus acted as an angel to Paul: How did Titus comfort Paul?
God's work in you was not in vain!
Imagine Paul's relief! His Encouragement. Fresh Pep in his Step

7b ...[Titus] told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

I rejoiced hearing of your love for me, manifest in...
An Earnest desire to see me/Mourn for me/Zealousness for my good

- What? How do we reconcile this statement with all we know about the Corinthian Church
- Worldly. Suspicious. Accusatory. Demeaning. How can Paul believe this?

1 Peter 4:8 Above all things have fervent love for one another, for **"love will cover a multitude of sins."**

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But **love covers all sins.**

Proverbs 17:9 He who **covers a transgression seeks love,** But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

God not only Comforts but God Covers

Genesis 9:21 [Noah] drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 23 **But** Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and **went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away,** and they did not see their father's nakedness.

God not only Comforts the Downcast
God Covers our Disgraces

1 Corinthians 13:6 Love **does not rejoice in iniquity**, but **rejoices in the truth**; 7 bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things**, endures all things.

Paul takes the High Road. The Healing Road. The Jesus Road
A Broken reed He will not break/Smoking candle He will not quench

Paul covers their sin/Exposes their good
Yet Paul does not Renege/Apologize for speaking hard Truth in Love

8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it.

2 Corinthians 2:4 [Previous Sorrowful Corrective Letter] Out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears

- I regretted sending that letter. I don't regret it anymore

8b ...For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance.

I had regret until I heard the results
I don't rejoice in your pain...But the result of your pain

9b... For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

I was careful in correcting you
Making sure to remember my own weaknesses/God's grace to me

Galatians 6:1 Restore...in a **spirit of gentleness, considering yourself** lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For **if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

Godly Correction? Exhortation not Condemnation
Exhort: *parakaleō* same word as comfort

Romans 2:4b ...[Do not] despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance...

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Godly sorrow produces Repentance/Restoration/Good Fruit [change]
A supernatural sorrow that will not backtrack even when things get hard

- **Repentance:** Gift offered by God to be acted upon or rejected...

2 Timothy 2:25 ...in humility correct those who are in opposition, **if God perhaps will grant them repentance**, so that they may **know the truth**, 26 and that they may **come to their senses** and **escape the snare** of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Sorrow of the World: Sad/Mad/Embarrassed we got caught
Produces Death not Life. Godly sorrow leads to Salvation...

11 For observe this very thing, that **you sorrowed in a godly manner**: What **diligence** it produced in you, what **clearing of yourselves**, what **indignation**, what **fear**, what **vehement desire**, what **zeal**, what **vindication!**

I admit Wrong. I take full Responsibility/I Accept the Consequences
Look what happened after you took action

Godly Supernatural Repentance
Temporary Pain producing Lasting Growth

- **Diligence:** Haste in doing what is right
- **Clearing of self:** gr. *Aplogia*. Clearing of Guilt/Shame
- **Indignation:** Toward their sin
- **Fear:** Healthy fear of God not to sin against Him again
- **Vehement Desire:** Restored relationship with Paul/God. Purity/Godliness
- **Zeal:** lit. Heat. For God and against sin. Opposite of lazy/complacent
- **Vindication:** Proven true by action

...the measure of a Christian is not whether or not they sin, but whether or not they repent.
[Guzik]

Godly sorrow ...is a sorrow that leads to a change of **purpose**, of **intention**, and of **action**.
...not the sorrow of idle tears ...not crying by your bedside because once again you have failed
...not vain regret ...not wishing things had never happened ...not wishing you could live the moments again. No, it is not that. It is a **change of purpose and intentions**, a **change of direction and action**. [Redpath]

- David: When I kept silent my bones wasted away/Strength sapped/God's hand heavy

2 Samuel 12:13 So David said to Nathan, "**I have sinned against the Lord.**" And Nathan said to David, "**The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.**"

- Some in the Church of God in Corinth had repented...We have sinned against the LORD

11b ...In all things you **proved yourselves to be clear** in this matter. **12** Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong,

I did not write to you for any individual offender or offende...

12b ...but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

From all appearance there was never a Church less worthy of an apostle's affections than this Church was at this time; and yet no one ever more beloved." [Clarke]

II. Speaking Life

13 Therefore we have been **comforted in your comfort**. And we **rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus**, because **his spirit has been refreshed by you all**.

Therefore: Now that it is all said and done...
We can rejoice in your Repentance/Restoration/Refreshing

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of **refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..**

We rejoiced in your reception of Titus and his report

14 For if in anything I have boasted to him [Titus] about you, **I am not ashamed**.

Paul had boasted to Titus in the hope that the Corinthian Christians would respond well to the severe letter. Titus have been apprehensive but Paul's boasting to Titus was found true.

Before sending Titus *to you* I did not gossip *about you*
[Even though you were the biggest hot mess I was dealing with at the time]

14b ...But as we spoke **all things to you in truth**, even so our **boasting to Titus was found true**.

Proverbs 18:21 **Death and life are in the power of the tongue**, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Paul did not Gossip or Lie to Titus about the Corinthians
His boasting was true as he spoke by faith of what he knew God could do

15 And his [Titus'] affections are greater for you as he remembers the **obedience** of you all, how with **fear and trembling you received him**. 16 Therefore **I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything**.

Re. Corinth, Paul had to continually act by faith, not sight
Paul trusted God's Keeping/Sustaining power/work in the Corinthians and He did

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was **given to you by Christ Jesus ...8 who will also confirm you to the end**, that you may be **blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**. **9 God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.