

## II Corinthians 7 – 8 May 2022

### “The Fruit Of Repentance”

#### Introduction

- \*Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2<sup>nd</sup> M.T.), made lots of disciples
- \*Book Theme: Minister’s Life: temporary pain & eternal gain
  - \*Chap 1-2 – ‘thriving in the fire’ & Guiding others
  - \*Chap 3 – privileges of being in the New Covenant
  - \*Chap 4-5 – Reasons & motivations to press ahead
  - \*Chap 6 – Moving into creating Christian culture
- \*Now Chap 7 – we have Paul’s great joy that their repentance has put them on a new trajectory
- \*When you think of repentance, there is repentance at the time of salvation coupled w/ faith in Christ
  - \*But Bible speaks a lot about the Christian’s on-going course corrections while travelling upstream
  - \*If you’re drowning trying to swim upstream, then repent & take the offer of a motor boat, it would be foolish to think this is the last change or course corrections you’ll ever have to make
- \*Let’s look at the effects or fruit of repentance**

# 1<sup>st</sup> aspect to the fruit of your repentance is how it changes other Christians (Vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1

1. This is a concluding remark re: chap 6
  - a. What promise? God will be our Father
  - b. B/c of this, let us seek cleanness (of body & Spirit) since we honor God & have His promises of a great future
2. Repentance is a growth toward cleanliness

Read Vs 2-3

1. This proclamation isn't asking them to get rid of their own guilt or dirt
2. It's asking them to consider Paul's cleanliness

Read Vs 4-6

Vs 4

1. He's so *happy* that he almost sings of them
2. Their repentance literally *comforts* him thru other trials – (if they came thru, others can too)

## Vs 5

1. Paul was dealing w/ contentions w/ others & concerns w/i that he wasn't doing good enough
2. Do we pray for other's repentance this way?

## Vs 6

1. Paul has the *joy he needs to continue* thru troubles b/c Titus came & refreshed Paul by telling of their changed life
  - a. Not salvation change—that already happened
  - b. This is repentance from harmful living

## Read Vs 7

1. Titus delivered a good report of the Corinthian's repentance & obedience
2. Paul can see the *unity* he's wanted w/ them restored!

## **2<sup>nd</sup> aspect to the fruit of your repentance is how it changes you (Vs 8-11)**

Read Vs 8

1. Sorry = Distressed, Repent = Regret
2. Paul immediately regretted inflicting distress on them but then came to the lasting decision that it was right to do it
3. Paul also notices that the distress he inflicted on them was only for a short time
4. Read Heb 12:11 - It's worth it to "distress" sinning Christians
  - a. It's easy to NOT distress someone in the short term by telling of the harm of their sin
  - b. Emotions would tell you DON'T DO IT
  - c. But it's the right thing to speak truth in love

Read Vs 9

1. This is the actual word for repentance meaning to change your mind
2. Paul now rejoices b/c the short-term distress DID lead to lasting repentance & change in them

## Read Vs 10

1. When sorrow of sin comes; can lead in 2 ways
  - a. You know it's godly sorrow if there's change
  - b. The difference is only life or death
2. In this world we'll have sorrow, question is, "What will we do about it"?
  - a. Wallow in results of our own selfishness
  - b. Move to change things & experience the joy of knowing Jesus has better things coming
  - c. Read John 16:21-22

## Read Vs 11

1. This is the path that repentance takes us on.  
Consider which we're lacking...
2. Carefulness: diligence to inspect self
3. Clearing of guilt: stop mentally living there
4. Indignation: mad at that sin
5. Fear: of repeating the sin
6. Desire: of purity
7. Fiery passion: lively for good activity
8. Vindication: living in victory over sin

## **3<sup>rd</sup> aspect to the fruit of your repentance is how it bonds you with other Christians (Vs 12-16)**

Read Vs 12

1. Consider the best motivation for speaking to a sinning Christian regarding their sin
2. There are good, better & best reasons
  - a. Good: correct the sinner
  - b. Better: vindication the victim
  - c. Best: Show your love/compassion for them
3. If we don't have deep love for an erring Christian, but bother trying to help them

Read Vs 13

1. The comfort and joy it brings to see someone openly repent
2. When their boat is heading toward rocks, there's anxiety, but when course is corrected, joy
3. The joy of repentance is contagious and it gives everyone a shot in the arm to press on!

## Read Vs 14

1. Paul had hopefully boasted to Titus that they would repent and now he knows that it was true
2. Hope the best for each other, think positively
  - a. This keeps unity even while dealing with sin issues

## Read Vs 15

1. It just warmed the heart of Titus to know that they're walking in obedience and fear of the Lord
2. Their bond of fellowship is restored
3. Nothing builds a bond of love & dedication to each other more than coming thru hard times together

## Read Vs 16

1. Paul couldn't say this when he wrote his first letter, but now knows they're on a good path
2. Don't leave people wondering if you're on course w/ God, give them confidence in your love of God

## Conclusion

So the results and fruit of repentance. This isn't just a one-time event at salvation; this is a lifelong pursuit.

1. **Repentance brings blessing to other Christians around you**
  - a. Joy, comfort & unity
  - b. The ability to endure with hope for more!
2. **Repentance brings change to you**
  - a. Clearing of guilt & desire for godliness
  - b. Sets you on the path of passion for Christ
  - c. You've been vindicated living in victory
3. **Repentance builds bonds between you and other Christians around you**
  - a. When someone's bold enough to speak hard words to you in love b/c of the danger you're in
    - i. And you respond agreeingly
    - ii. There is great connection and eternal friendship!

You're either a repenter or a rebel, which are you?