

MESSAGE NOTES:

2 Corinthians 7:5-16

⁵For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. ⁶But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged.

In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. ¹⁵And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

2 Choices that will bring encouragement:

1. Choose Relationships over Isolation

2. Choose Repentance over Avoidance

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- When is the best time to put up the Christmas decorations and why?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 7:2-16**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Consider verses 5-6. How does God use people/community to comfort His people? Share a time when you experienced this.
3. In verse 8 Paul notes that his letter brought grief to the Corinthian church and that he did not regret it. When is it appropriate in our communication or actions to bring "grief" to someone or a group of people and why?
4. In verses 9-10, Paul notes that this sorrow led to repentance. What's the difference between worldly and godly sorrow?
5. Can you share an example of when you were brought to conviction with sorrow and repented? What helped lead you to be able to do that?
6. In verse 15 Paul notes that he has complete confidence in the Corinthians. From the passage, what gives him that confidence? What evidence is there that one can know if he/she is a genuine believer or not?
7. What is one next step that God may be calling you to take as a result of this passage?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.