

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

<sup>2</sup> Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

<sup>3</sup> I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

<sup>4</sup> Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

<sup>5</sup> For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

<sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

<sup>7</sup> and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

<sup>8</sup> For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while —

<sup>9</sup> I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

<sup>10</sup> For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

<sup>11</sup> For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

#### Review:

1. Paul has been open w/ the church about how he feels about them

**6:11** Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

2. He told them about biblical separation & what it looked like

3. He said that to have a close relationship w/ God there was a distance that had to be maintained in the world
4. There is a purity that God expects from believers
  - a. There are certain a believer shouldn't participate in or be a part of
5. He closed that thought by saying that God has made promises to us that should spur us on toward holiness w/ Him
  - 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 x Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1. "Therefore, having these promises"
  - a. The particular promises are those mentioned in Chapter 6 – but go back farther – to chapter 2
2. "let us cleanse ourselves"
  - a. First - this statement can only applies to believers
    - i. No lost person can cleanse themselves
  - b. But how does a believer cleanse himself?
    - i. 2 ways
      - 1.#1. Confess your sins
 

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
      - 2.#2. Make the decision to change
 

**Colossians 3:8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

        1. "put them all aside"
          1. Middle voice – you decide
          2. It takes the power of the Spirit but you make the decision to do that
3. "all defilement of flesh and spirit"
  - a. Of "flesh" concerns fleshly sins
  - b. "spirit" are mental attitude sins

V.2 Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

V.3 I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

V.4 Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

1. "I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction"
  - a. This is in perspective when you remember that Titus has just returned w/ good news
    - i. Paul Had been very worried about Titus
    - ii. Titus has shown up!

V.5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

1. "when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest"
  - a. Paul is picking his story line he deviated from chapter 2

**2 Corinthians 2:12** Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,  
<sup>13</sup> I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

- b. Read it w/out all the sidetracking

**2 Corinthians 2:12** Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,

V.13 I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia...

**7:5** For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

1. "when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest"
  - a. Paul was just as human as the rest of us
    - i. God had opened the door for evangelism & Paul left it b/c of worry for Titus
    - ii. Paul is the one who wrote

**Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

iii. You don't have to be perfect – but you can't stop trying to do it right

V.6 But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

1. "comforted us by the coming of Titus"

a. Paul had no way to check on Titus

i. And when Titus didn't show up

ii. Was he lost at sea, killed by the Corinthians???

1. He was carrying a letter of reprimand – maybe they didn't take it well

b. But now he is back & all is better

c. Be careful that feelings don't rule your life – feelings are fine – but we can't let them rule our lives

i. That is a lifelong process of learning! But you must continue working on it

V.6 x But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

V.7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

1. "not only...his coming, but...he was comforted in you...your mourning...zeal for me"

a. Says I was thrilled Titus was alive –

i. I was thrilled that you received him well –

ii. I was thrilled that you repented of your sins –

iii. I was thrilled that you didn't hate me!

V.8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—

1. "though I caused you sorrow by my letter"

a. 1 Corinthians – it was rough letter to write

**1 Corinthians 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

<sup>2</sup> I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

**1 Corinthians 4:7** For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

**1 Corinthians 4:10** We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

**1 Corinthians 4:18** Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.

<sup>19</sup> But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power.

<sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

<sup>21</sup> What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

2. "I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow"

a. This is Scripture

i. All Scripture is inspired

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

b. When Paul was writing Scripture he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write what he wrote

c. But when he put that quill down – he was just another man

i. The whole human race is fallen – even Paul!

1.He & Barnabas got into a fuss over John Mark

**Acts 15:37** Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also.

<sup>38</sup> But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

<sup>39</sup> And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

2.Paul later admitted he was wrong in his attitude toward Mark

**2 Timothy 4:11** Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

- d. Did you ever witness to someone & wonder if you overplayed your hand? Was I too aggressive, etc.
- e. Did you ever make a decision & wonder later about it? Everyone does that
  - i. This is where praying before doing is so important!

V.9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

V.10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

1. "I...rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were...sorrowful to...point of repentance"
  - a. First – sorrow & repentance are 2 different things
  - b. Repentance is very misunderstood
  - c. Repentance from sins is something only a believer does
  - d. Paul said it is good that you repented even if it hurt a little to get you there
  - e. The word repent is *μετάνοια* is a noun meaning to change your mind

- f. The verb form is μετανοέω it means to change your mind
- i. The root word is the same in both
  - ii. I have ½ dozen Greek lexicons and they all give the same definition – “Change your mind”
- g. Believers are told to repent of their sins
- i. That is what Paul told Corinthians & they did & he was happy
- h. It is different w/ the lost person
- i. Under the Gospel of Grace no unsaved person is ever told to repent of their sins –
- i. For someone to be saved they must know that they are a sinner – but –
    - 1.They are told to believe in Christ
 

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

**John 20:30** Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

<sup>31</sup> but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- j. Israel – before the cross – was told to repent of their sins & believe that the kingdom was coming –
- i. That is called the “Kingdom Gospel”
    - 1.It didn’t save anyone – but it prepared them for salvation
  - ii. John the Baptist preached that – so did Jesus
    - 1.But it was to the Jew only
 

**Matthew 10:5** These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

<sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

**Matthew 15:24** But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- k. Paul ran into some of John the Baptist disciples & realized that they weren’t believers

**Acts 19:1** It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.

<sup>2</sup> He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism."

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

<sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

<sup>7</sup> There were in all about twelve men.

l. In our day (Gospel of Grace) we tell people to believe in Christ  
m. There is not a single verse written to the Church that says repent of your sins to be saved

n. Acts 2 is sometimes misunderstood

**Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

\*Peter was telling Jews to change their mind about Who Christ was

\*Sins were not the object of repentance

o. Conclusion –

i. Saved people are told to repent of their sins

ii. Lost people are told to believe

iii. This is seen in Scripture

**1 Thessalonians 1:9** For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He



raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

V.9 x I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

V.10 x For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

1. "for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God"
  - a. Being sorry that you did something isn't the same is "Godly repentance"
    - i. Judas was sorry that he betrayed Christ – but it was to no avail
    - ii. Peter was sorry that he betrayed Christ – and it changed his life
  
2. "the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation"
  - a. That was Peter's repentance
  
3. "the sorrow of the world produces death"
  - a. That was according to the world's repentance & it leads to death
    - i. That might be real death like Judas or emotional death like so many burdened by guilt they can't assuage

V.11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

1. "what earnestness...this godly sorrow, has produced"
  - a. Biblical repentance has a footprint that shows
    - i. Just for a believer to say "I'm sorry" means nothing
    - ii. There will be signs that prove it's real
  
2. "...what earnestness this very thing"
  - a. There is a haste to make right an earnestness –
  
3. "...this godly sorrow"

- a. There is a real "sorrow" – "grieving"
4. "...what vindication of yourselves"
    - a. The word is ἀπολογία it means to give answers (transparency)
  5. "what indignation"
    - a. A personal hurting – strong displeasure – "I can't believe I did that!"
    - b. Never blame the other party even if they were wrong too
  6. "what fear"
    - a. With a level of terror, fear, alarm over what was done
  7. "what longing"
    - a. They had a desire to see Paul face to face
    - b. Wanting to be accepted back
    - c. They are never ok w/ whatever – "I apologized that should be" enough
  8. "what zeal"
    - a. Means a warmth of personality – no cold attitude toward those who criticized
  9. "avenging of wrong"
    - a. It means to either accept punishment
    - b. Or – They do all they can to show how sorry they are
  10. "In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter"
    - a. Innocent – is pure
    - b. They have shown their repentance to be real
    - c. We have an example of all the above

**Luke 19:2** And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich.

**V.5** When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

**V.8** Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor,

and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."

d.

e. Here is an example of unbiblical repentance

**Matthew 27:3** Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

<sup>4</sup> saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!"

<sup>5</sup> And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

**Hebrews 12:16** that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

<sup>17</sup> For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it **with tears**.

1. Was Esau sorry that he sold his birthright? Yes

1. But being sorry is not biblical repentance

1. If you are a believer keep short sin accounts – don't wait until you go to bed to confess your sins

2. If you're not a believer – believe in the Jesus of the Bible & be saved!