

II Corinthians

Wisdom of God Lesson 6

II Corinthians 6:11 - 7:16

Introduction

This section is perhaps the most personal of the epistle. Finishing his discussion of reconciliation in 5:20, 21, Paul urges them to avoid receiving the grace of God in vain. He then describes the condition of his ministry, listing both sufferings at the hands of men and blessings given by God. In his personal appeal to them, Paul explains that his heart is open to them, and he desires the same feeling on their part, seeing that he took advantage of no one. Finally, in this section Paul describes the great joy he felt in learning of their response to his previous epistle. Not only Paul, but Titus as well had been refreshed by the penitent, obedient spirit of the Corinthians.

II Corinthians 6:11-7:4

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

⁷ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

² Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³ I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ⁴ I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

Personal Appeal for Their Affection - 6:11 - 7:4

1. According to Paul, whose fault was it if there was a strain in their relationship?
2. What did Paul desire from them?
3. Read I Corinthians 3:16-17 and 6:19-20.
4. What does God offer to those who will separate themselves from the world's defilement?
5. What should the promises of God prompt us to do?

II Corinthians 7:5-16

⁵For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear 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 with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³Therefore we are comforted.

And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. ¹⁵And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

Response to Paul's Epistle - 7:5-16

1. Read 2:13. Why was Paul without relief in Macedonia?
2. What news did Titus bring that comforted Paul? Why was he so anxious about this news?
3. Why was Paul glad he had made the Corinthians sorrowful?
4. Describe the two kinds of sorrow and their fruit.
5. What had refreshed Titus? How had he been received by the Corinthians?