

LESSON EIGHT

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2 - 16

In chapter six Paul explains that Christians have a most precious promise and he exhorts the Corinthians to live as those who have this promise. In verses 2 and 3 Paul repeats his desire for them to reciprocate his love. So far as he was concerned there was nothing standing in the way of them being reconciled. He had not injured them, nor was he alienated from them. Instead he had great confidence in them (vs. 4). His apprehensions and anxiety had been greatly removed by the news that Titus brought concerning their feelings for Paul (vs. 5-7). It is true that initially he did regret sending the letter he speaks of here (either 1st Corinthians or a lost “sever letter”), but now he no longer regrets sending it. He found that the sorrow which that letter caused was the sorrow of true repentance. It did not injure them, it was for their good (vs. 8, 9). It was not a worldly sorrow (which is a sorrow caused by the consequences of sin not the sin itself), but true godly sorrow, as was evident from its effects (vs. 10, 12). There the apostle was comforted and delighted to find how much Titus was gratified by his visit to Corinth. All that Paul told him about the good dispositions of the Corinthians was found to be true. (vs. 13 - 16).

KEY PHRASES:

1. “Open wide your hearts” (vs. 2) - “Make room in your hearts for us.”
2. “You are in our hearts to die together” (vs. 3) - “You are worth dying for”
3. “Godly Sorrow” - Looks to God, and leads to repentance.
4. “Sorrow of the world” - The sorrow brings regret, but not repentance.
5. “Earnest Care” (vs. 11) - Haste, diligence, they did not waste time repenting.
6. “Clearing of yourselves” - They desired to vindicate themselves, to make things right.
7. “What Indignation” - They were angry with themselves when they realized their sin, and that they had put up with it for so long.
8. “What Fear” - Reverence toward God and His holy word.
9. “What Longing” - Titus told Paul the Corinthians “longed” to see him, they long to correct what went wrong, and they longed for a better way.
10. “What Zeal” - Their eager desire to obey God.
11. “What Avenging” - They demonstrated their willingness to punish the evil doer.

APPLICATION:

1. Make sure your motives are pure, and your purpose is to help someone before you admonish.
2. Repentance is something we must all do continually.
3. We must all examine our own repentance - does it bear the “fruit” of repentance?

QUESTIONS:

1. What promises had God given to the Corinthians?
2. Why were the Corinthians to receive Paul?
3. Illustrate the difference between godly and worldly repentance.
4. In verse 3 Paul mentions “death” first and then “life”. Is there a reason he lists them in this order?
5. How can we tell if someone’s repentance is genuine?
6. In verse 7, is Paul concerned with his personal popularity? What is he saying?
7. What is the difference between “regret” and “repentance”?
8. What went through Paul’s mind when he sent the letter?
9. In explaining “godly sorrow” read Psalms 51:1-4. How could David say, “Against thee only have I sinned”? What about Uriah, and Bathsheba?
10. Do Christians need to repent?
11. Since Paul is writing to Christians, and he says their sorrow produced repentance “leading to salvation”, what does this say about the “Once saved always saved” doctrine?