

## 2 Corinthians 16 - 7:4-16

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Done with Paul's teaching on apostolic ministry:

Today: Paul's reaction to the report from Titus

- Context
- Paul's joy 7:4
- Paul's comfort 7:5-7
- The Corinthians' sorrow 7:8-10
- The Corinthians' earnestness 7:11-13a
- Titus' encouragement 7:13b-15
- Paul's confidence 7:16

Context

- First visit: Paul's second missionary journey. Corinthian church established.
- First letter (not preserved): to admonish immorality.
- Second letter (1 Cor): to address multiple issues, call for the expulsion of the incestuous man, answer their letter.
- Second visit: Painful; Paul opposed and not supported by the church.
- Third letter (not preserved). Severe, called for punishment of the offender. Sent to Corinth with Titus. After going to Corinth, Titus was to meet Paul in Troas or in Macedonia
- Fourth letter. After the silversmiths' riot, Paul left Ephesus (Acts 19:23 - 20:1). He went to Troas looking for Titus but did not find him. Even though the Lord opened a door for ministry Paul was afflicted externally and had no rest in his spirit (2 Cor 1:8-9). He continued to Macedonia to find Titus (2 Cor 2:12-13). The Macedonian church was undergoing persecution (2 Cor 7:5; 8:2) so Paul had no relief there. Finally, Titus came bringing good news that most of the Corinthians had repented (2 Cor 7:6-7). Paul wrote a fourth letter (Our 2 Cor) from Macedonia to express relief over the Corinthians' repentance (2 Cor 7:8-16), instruct them about apostolic ministry (2 Cor 1-6), exhort them to complete their offering for Jerusalem (2 Cor 8-9), and confront the remaining holdouts (2 Cor 10-13).

Paul's joy 7:4

2 Corinthians 7:4 (LSB)

4Great is my boldness toward you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I have been filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

- Great is my boldness toward you; great is my boasting on your behalf.
  - boldness.
    - If "boldness in speech" then Paul has confidence to speak boldly to the Corinthians (as in the severe letter) because to others he boasts about them.
    - If "confidence" then Paul is confident about their faith and their relationship with him and so he boasts about them. As he desired in 1:14: they are his boast and he is their boast.
- I have been filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy
  - Paul's response to the news that the Corinthians have repented.
  - Comfort. Lit "the comfort". From God. Strength and encouragement to continue in his ministry.
  - As 2 Cor 1:3 the comfort received from God in his affliction in Asia.
  - Repeated in 7:16.
- in all our affliction.
  - Lit "pressure". Singular: the condition of being afflicted.

Paul's comfort 7:5-7

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 (LSB)

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

6But God, who comforts the humbled, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

7and 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.

- v5 Affliction
  - flesh. Frail mortal body
  - no rest...afflicted on every side
    - Explaining Paul's condition of affliction.
    - In Asia: riot in Ephesus, afflicted beyond his strength.
    - In Macedonia: church being persecuted
  - conflicts without.
    - External intense and bitter fights
    - Likely with false teachers.
  - fears within
    - Internal worries.
    - About the Macedonian church, the situation in Corinth, Titus' safety

- v6-7 Comfort and joy
  - But God, who comforts the humbled
    - From Is 49:13 Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For Yahweh has comforted His people And will have compassion on His afflicted.
    - humbled.
      - Discouraged and lacking hope.
      - Paul had had a painful visit to Corinth (2:3), been burdened to despair in Asia (2 Cor 1:8-9), persecuted and in multiple conflicts in Macedonia (2 Cor 7:5)
  - Two comforts
  - comforted us by the coming of Titus
    - Paul had been worried about Titus' safety en route or at Corinth, and had missed him at Troas. Now they were together again.
  - also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you
    - Titus had not been to Corinth and was likely anxious about his reception there as Paul's representative.
    - He was comforted by his reception there and by the Corinthians' repentance.
  - as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me
    - The report that Paul had been waiting for ever since Ephesus.
    - The good news that he was hoping for.
    - your longing. Lacking and deeply desiring. For Paul's presence and a restored relationship with him.
    - your mourning. Expressing grief and sorrow. Over their broken relationship with Paul Over the sorrow they caused him during the painful visit. Over their pride and indifference and sins.
    - your zeal for me. Burning desire to make things right between them and Paul. May refer to obeying his previous exhortations.
  - so that I rejoiced even more.
    - As 3 Jn 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

The Corinthians' sorrow 7:8-10

2 Corinthians 7:8–10 (LSB)

8For 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—

9I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to repentance. For you were made to have godly sorrow, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

10For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world brings about death.

- v8 Regret
  - For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it
    - Paul did not regret sending the severe letter
      - He had definite reasons for the letter
        - To deliver his message to the Corinthians in a manner that would be the most effective to bring them to repent so that his next visit would be joyful (2 Cor 2:1-3)
        - To show his love for the them (2 Cor 2:4)
        - To test their obedience (2 Cor 2:9)
        - To manifest their earnestness towards him (2 Cor 7:12)
      - The sorrow it caused only lasted a short time (2 Cor 7:8)
      - It brought about godly sorrow leading to repentance (2 Cor 7:9)
  - though I did regret it
    - For a while after he sent the letter and before he heard the outcome.
    - Concerned that his discipline be godly
      - Pr 13:24 He who holds back his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.
        - Applied when necessary
      - Col 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
        - Not so severe as to cause despair

- v9 Joy
  - I now rejoice
    - After hearing the report of their repentance
  - not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to repentance.
    - Ro 12:9-21 never taking your own revenge, beloved—instead leave room for the wrath of God. For it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
      - Paul is not overcome by evil, he is not seeking vengeance by paying back evil for evil. Rather he is pouring burning coals on the Corinthians’ heads to light the fire of repentance.
  - For you were made to have godly sorrow, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.
    - temporal: loss in relationships, fruit, spiritual growth
    - eternal: loss of rewards (1 Cor 2:15 burned up) , salvation (2 Cor 13:5 test yourselves)
- v10 Two sorrows
  - For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation
    - God-centered. About offense against God
    - Results in repentance. Change in mind leading to a change in behavior.
    - Leads to salvation.
      - Eternal life
      - Through sanctification. Heb 12:14 ... the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord,
    - As the prodigal son (Lk 15)
  - but the sorrow of the world brings about death.
    - Self-centered. About offense against self.
    - Brings about death: conscious existence apart from God,
      - Cain went out from the presence of Yahweh (Gen 4:16)
      - Esau was rejected even though he sought the blessing with tears (Heb 12:17)
      - Judas went away and hanged himself (Mt 27:5)

The Corinthians' earnestness 7:11-13a

2 Corinthians 7:11–13 (LSB)

11For behold what earnestness this very thing—this godly sorrow—has brought about 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.

12So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be manifested to you in the sight of God.

13For this reason we have been comforted...

- v11 Innocence demonstrated
  - For behold what ... this very thing – this godly sorrow—has brought about in you.
    - Paul asks the Corinthians to look at what has been manifested in them
  - earnestness. ChatGPT: “sincere and intense conviction, seriousness, or heartfelt enthusiasm”
  - Six characteristics
  - what vindication of yourselves
    - Verbal defense
    - Not defending their previous actions
    - Rather disowning them and seeking forgiveness
  - what indignation
    - Strong opposition and displeasure about a wrong
    - Toward the offender, false teachers and themselves.
  - what fear
    - Anxiety about consequences from Paul and from Jesus
  - what longing
    - Deep desire for Paul’s presence and a restored relationship with him.
  - what zeal
    - Lit “on fire”
    - To make things right
  - what avenging of wrong!
    - No vengeance (paying back a wrong done to me)
    - Righting the wrong done to another
    - Community matter (2 Cor 2:5)
  - In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.
    - Demonstrated. By their actions.
    - Innocent. Without moral defect. After their repentance.
      - Paul does not hold on to the offense
      - As 1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins...
    - in the matter. Paul intentionally avoids rehashing the past.

- v12 Paul's purpose
  - So although I wrote to you. The severe letter.
  - it was not for the sake of the offender.
    - That he be punished.
  - nor for the sake of the one offended. That he be recompensed. Likely Paul. (2 Cor 2:10)
  - but that your earnestness on our behalf might be manifested to you.
    - Paul wants the Corinthians' to see their true heart for him.
  - in the sight of God
    - Reminding them that they stand before Jesus, who Paul represents.
- v13 Paul's comfort
  - For this reason we have been comforted
    - Paul's letter was successful.

Titus' encouragement 7:13b-15

2 Corinthians 7:13b–16 (LSB)

13 ...And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame, but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth.

15 And his affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

- v13 More joy
  - And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus
    - Paul shares Titus' joy
  - because his spirit has been refreshed by you all
    - Titus had likely never been to Corinth
    - He was likely anxious about his reception there as Paul's representative.
    - He was comforted by their response.
- v14 Boasting confirmed
  - Paul had boasted to Titus about the Corinthians. Always he viewed believers not according to the flesh but as new creations in Christ. (5:16-17)
  - His boasting was shown to be true, just like his conduct and teaching.
- v15 Titus' affection
  - his affection abounds all the more toward you. Because of the Corinthians' response, Titus himself now has abounding affection for them. This will make him a good candidate to work with them to complete their collection for the Jerusalem offering.
  - how you received him with fear and trembling.
    - This is not Paul lording it over the Corinthians (Mt 20:25).
    - However when he comes again he will not spare anyone who will not repent (2 Cor 13:2)

Paul's confidence 7:16

2 Corinthians 7:16 (LSB)

16I rejoice that in everything I am encouraged about you.

- I rejoice
  - Not a hint of animosity for all the problems in Corinth
- in everything.
  - Paul is celebrating their repentance.
  - Not that all issues are resolved and there will be no more problems.
  - There are still holdouts in Corinth. Paul will address them in ch 10-13.
- I am encouraged
  - Bold: Able to continue to speak freely to them
  - Confident: Convinced that they have done well and will continue to do well
    - Implication is that they will also do well in the Jerusalem offering.

Application: Two sorrows

2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world brings about death.

Luke 23:39–43 (LSB)

39And one of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

40But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

41"And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong."

42And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"

43And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

How does the first thief exhibit worldly sorrow?

- His concern is for himself.

How does the second thief exhibit godly sorrow?

- Acknowledges his guilt
- Recognizes Jesus as the Messiah
- Comes to Him for salvation

Reject worldly sorrow.

Act on godly sorrow and rejoice.



## References

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