

## 2 Corinthians 7

Remember *2 Corinthians 1-7* – the first division of the letter

### 2 Corinthians 7.1-4

**V1** – This really goes back to *2 Cor. 6.14*

- What promises is Paul referring to?** *2 Cor. 6.16b* – that God would be with his people
- Based on those promises, what are we to do?** Stop compromising
- "Perfecting holiness"** – *1 John 3.3* – to work toward it

**V2** – New thought here: he "opens his heart" to them

- Some lingering attacks on Paul from the Corinthians
- Probably three charges had been brought against Paul
- His reply?** He had wronged no-one, including
  1. The man who was disfellowshipped (Paul did not make a personal attack on this man, but did what was best in God's sight for this person)
  2. Corrupted no-one (he had preached Christ)
  3. Taken advantage of no-one (he had been open and honest in the money he collected for Jerusalem)

**V3** – **Don't we see the love Paul had for the Corinthians here?** He was ready to live or die with them

**V4** – Paul was still optimistic about the work in Corinth (*2 Cor.* is certainly more pleasant than *1 Cor.*)

- Why was he proud of the church there?** It had been difficult ground to break

### 2 Corinthians 7.5-10

**V5** – Remember: *2 Corinthians* was the most autobiographical of Paul's 13 letters

- Explain "our flesh had no rest"** – A reference to *2 Cor. 2.12-13*
- Two sources of trouble for Paul?** Conflicts without and fears within

**V6** – What a tremendous verse!

- God comforts the depressed (sometimes through human means)
- What comforted Paul on this occasion?** The coming of Titus
- How would Titus have comforted Paul?** Just the presence of another gospel preacher

**V7** – **What news did Titus bring from Corinth?** Their longing, their mourning, and their zeal for Paul

**V8** – **What had been the first result of Paul's letter?** Sorrow

**V9** – **The second result?** Sorrow leading to repentance

**V10** – Repentance without regret – a great lesson here

**-Define Christian repentance:** Sorrow because we had sinned and the willingness to do better in the future

**-What is the difference between making a mistake as a Christian and making a mistake as a person in the world?** Sorrow of the world produces death

-some of the richest people in the world have committed suicide

Optional: Edgar Allen Poe's short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" – shows how guilt catches up with a person

**V 10** – An excellent description of true repentance

**-Peter VS. Judas?** Judas was sorry, but did not change his life and seek forgiveness

**-Esau and Jacob?** Esau never sought forgiveness (no true repentance)

## **2 Corinthians 7.11-13a**

**V 11** – This seems to be a reference to the man with his father's wife

-A list of good (though unpleasant) things to have occurred because of the action against this man

**V 12** – **Paul's main concern in this matter?** He saw it as a test of the earnestness of the church at Corinth

**V 13a** – Paul was comforted by all of these things

## **2 Corinthians 7.13b-16**

**V 13b** – **What else comforted Paul?** Seeing how well the Corinthians had treated Titus

-They had "refreshed" Titus (usually a reference to helping a missionary with financial assistance)

**V 14** – Paul had bragged about Titus – it all turned out to be the truth

**V 15** – Titus was impressed by the church at Corinth

**V 16** – Paul expressed his confidence that the church at Corinth would do the right thing and be faithful to Christ

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