

2Corinthians – Week 25

I. Quiz

II. Review: 2Cor. 6:14-18

- A. Some of the Corinthians lost their affection for Paul because of evil influences
 - i. Therefore, he urges them to not be unequally yoked with unbelievers
 - ii. Believers share nothing in common with unbelievers:
 - 1. One walks in righteousness, the other doesn't.
 - 2. One walks in the light, the other doesn't.
 - 3. One submits to Christ, the other doesn't.
 - 4. One lives by faith in Christ, the other doesn't.
 - 5. One worships God and the other doesn't.
 - iii. Those who separate themselves from improper alliances are welcomed by God and are known to Him as His sons and daughters.
 - iv. Paul continues to urge the Corinthians to reconcile with God and with Paul and his companions in the next chapter...

III. Continuation

- A. 2Cor. 7:1-4 (ESV), *“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.”*
 - i. The promises spoken here refer to what was quoted in verses 17-18...
 - 1. *“I will welcome you...”*
 - 2. *“I will be a father to you...”*
 - 3. *“you shall be sons and daughters to me”*
 - ii. As Christians, the Corinthians possessed the promises of God!
 - 1. Paul opened this letter to the Corinthians, telling them...
 - a. 2Cor. 1:20 (ESV), *“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”*
 - 2. However, if they continue to yoke themselves with unbelievers, they will not see the fulfillment of these promises!
 - iii. For this reason, Paul urges them to rid themselves of that which defiles both body and spirit so that they can grow in holiness!
 - 1. God expects all those who are His to be holy!
 - a. 1Peter 1:14-16 (ESV), *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile”*
 - i. Holiness involves:
 - 1. Obedience to the Father's will (cf. Matt. 7:21)
 - 2. Being conformed to the new life in Christ (cf. Romans 6:13; 12:1-2)
 - 3. Understanding that all will appear before God, who judges each man's character.
 - ii. Those who pursue holiness will see the Lord!
 - 1. Hebrews 12:14 (ESV), *“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”*

- B. 2Cor. 7:2 (ESV), *“Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.”*
- i. Paul is reiterating in greater detail what he previously told them in 6:13...
 1. 2Cor. 6:13 (ESV), *“In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.”*
 - ii. Despite what his critics may be saying about him, Paul insisted that...
 1. He wronged no one at Corinth, that is, he did not sin against anyone.
 2. Nor did he corrupt anyone at Corinth, that is, he did not cause anyone to sin (cf. 6:3).
 3. Nor did he take advantage of anyone at Corinth, that is, he did not use anyone for personal profit!
- C. 2Cor. 7:3 (ESV), *“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.”*
- i. When one corrects someone who is already emotionally detached, it is good to help them understand that the correct is not meant to alienate them further.
 - ii. Paul does this very thing:
 1. He does not say these things to condemn and alienate them further from him!
 2. He repeats what he said earlier in chapter 6:11-12 that his heart is wide open towards them!
 - a. Neither death nor the trials of life, including the charges against him, would alter his love for them.
- D. 2Cor. 7:4 (ESV), *“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.”*
- i. This passage is a joint passage, ending this section and beginning the next:
 1. Paul reiterates what he said in 6:12, how he spoke freely and openly to them because of his great affection for them.
 - a. Paul had confidence in them that they would respond properly to his exhortation and not drive them away.
 2. And now, because of Titus’ good report regarding the Corinthians, he was filled with comfort and overflowing with joy!
 3. We will get into Titus’ good report in our next class!