

2Corinthians – Week 28-Revised

I. Review: 2Cor. 7:10-11

- A. Paul's severe letter to the Corinthians produced godly sorrow.
- B. Godly sorrow brings about repentance which leads to eternal life.
- C. Paul mentions seven manifestations brought about by true repentance:
 1. Earnestness – the Corinthians eagerly sought to correct their behavior.
 2. Eagerness to clear yourselves – they wanted to take necessary steps to clear up the matter.
 3. Indignation – they had hatred towards their sin as opposed to making excuses for their sin. This is a key component to repentance – no indignation towards the sin leads to a repeat of the sin. A fool repeats his folly (Prov. 26:11).
 4. Fear – they acted in the fear of the Lord, which causes one to hate and avoid what is evil (Prov. 8:13; 16:6)
 5. Longing – they longed to have a restored relationship with Paul (cf. 2Cor. 7:7).
 6. Zeal – they were zealous to have a restored relationship with Paul (cf. 2Cor. 7:7)
 7. Punishment – they were ready to carry church discipline towards a brother who was out of line (cf. 2:5-11; 7:12)
- ii. Their repentance has cleared them of the hurt they caused Paul, thus becoming innocent of the matter!

II. Continuation

- A. 2Cor. 7:12 (ESV), *“So 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.”*
 - i. Apparently, the severe letter written in chapter 2 contained discussion and instructions about a brother who did wrong.
 1. Apparently, the church did nothing to this wrongdoer while Paul was visiting with them.
 2. But according to Titus' report, after reading the severe letter, the Corinthians repented and punished the wrongdoer (cf. 2Cor. 2:5-11)
 - ii. Who was the wrongdoer? Who was the one who suffered by the wrongdoer?
 1. Interpretation #1:
 - a. Some say the wrongdoer was the man who had his father's wife (cf. 1Cor. 5:1-2)
 - b. And the one who suffered the wrong was the father of the man.
 - c. The problem with this interpretation is that in 1Cor. 5, the Corinthians didn't seem bothered by his presence in the church!
 - i. In chapter 2, Paul mentioned the offender ...
 1. 2Cor. 2:5 (ESV), *“Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you.”*
 - a. Notice this particular offender caused pain to the church.
 - b. The man in 1Cor. 5 did not cause pain to the church.
 - i. In fact, they were fellowshiping with him as if nothing was wrong.
 - ii. For this reason Paul told them that their boasting was not good and that they should put him out of the church (cf. 1Cor. 5:1-7).
 - c. Also, judging by this passage, the church perceived that this wrongdoer did offend and hurt Paul, which leads to the other interpretation...

2. Interpretation #2

- a. Based on chapter 2, most likely the one who suffered wrong was Paul, prompting him to write the severe letter after having a painful visit with them.
 - i. By implication of 2Cor. 7:7-10, during Paul's painful visit, the Corinthians did not display zeal for him.
 1. Most likely, when the offending brother gave Paul a hard time, the church did not come to his defense.
 2. But after reading his severe letter, they repented and punished the offending brother (2Cor. 2:5-11) and longed for Paul (2Cor. 7:7).
 - iii. Paul lets them know that the main reason for his writing the severe letter was not for the offender to be punished, but so that their devotion to his ministry would be revealed.
 1. Note:
 - a. Some manuscript copies have a different phrasing for this verse.
 - b. The KJV uses the alternate phrase...
 - i. 2Cor. 7:12 (KJV), "*Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.*"
 - c. According to the manuscript used by the KJV, Paul's reason for writing the severe letter was to show how much he cared for them.
 2. The ESV translation seems to agree with what Paul said earlier as to why he wrote the letter...
 - a. 2Cor. 2:9 (ESV), "*For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.*"
 - b. If they listen to him, then that will reveal their loyalty and care for him as their apostle and gospel father.
 - c. And the letter did! It caused them to realize how wrong their actions were in the sight of God, causing them to repent and to display their devotion to Paul and his ministry, prompting him to say the following...
- B. 2Cor. 7:13 (ESV), "*Therefore 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.*"
- i. Not only had Paul been encouraged by the news of their repentance, but Titus' enthusiasm for them added to Paul's joy!
 - ii. Paul had confidence in them that they would respond well to his discipline.
 - iii. For this reason, Paul goes on to say...
- C. 2Cor. 7:14 (ESV), "*For 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.*"
- i. Here was Titus, delivering this harsh letter written by Paul to the Corinthians, and yet Paul boasted to Titus about the Corinthians.
 1. Paul had faith that the Corinthians would repent.
 2. Titus' good report and Titus' encouraging visit proved Paul correct!

D. 2Cor. 7:15-16 (ESV), “*And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.*”

- i. The Corinthians welcomed Titus with humility, ready to take direction, having a fear of wrongdoing.**
- ii. This is a good example for the church to imitate:**
 - 1. The flock should lighten the burden of its leaders and make their work a joy (cf. Hebrews 13:17)!**
 - a. This is to be done by humility and obedience, acknowledging that those who oversee the work of the Church were placed there by God (cf. Acts 20:28).**
 - 2. And the leaders of the flock, in turn, should care for and cherish the flock**
 - a. Offering words of edification, consolation and encouragement (cf. 1Cor. 14:3)**
 - b. And having complete confidence in them.**

III. Chapter 8 – Christian Giving

A. Paul appeals to the Corinthians to send their promised contribution to the needy saints in Jerusalem (chapters 8-9)

- i. He uses the great example of the Macedonians (vs. 1-5)**
- ii. He appeals to them to do follow in their example (vv. 6-8)**
- iii. He uses the example of Christ to drive home the point of generosity (vs. 9)**
- iv. He reminds them to allow their actions to match their desire to give (vv. 10-11)**
- v. Paul gives three principles that should govern Christian giving:**
 - 1. It should be done willingly (vs. 12)**
 - 2. It should be done according to a person’s ability (vs. 12)**
 - 3. The amount we give should not make us become destitute. (vv. 13-15)**
 - a. The goal is for everyone to have their basic needs met.**
- vi. Paul mentions three brothers who would collect the contribution from them (vv. 16-24)**
 - 1. Titus (vv. 16-17)**
 - 2. Two unnamed brothers (vv. 23-24)**