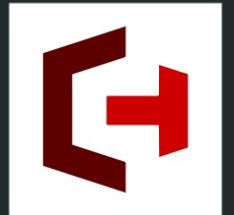


2 Corinthians

Verse by Verse



**Paul's
Defense of
His Ministry**



2 Corinthians 7

Godly Grief



Introduction

The Text of
2 Corinthians 7

Conclusions

Introduction to 2 Corinthians 7



**Previously in
2 Corinthians**

**What's in
2 Corinthians 7?**

Key Verse



Previously in 2 Corinthians

From Alan
Redpath

- We've seen that Paul had a sometimes rocky relationship with the church in Corinth.
- In order to make the case for his own ministry, he has listed some of his apostolic credentials.
- These were mainly character traits and his obvious perseverance through various trials.
- We ended last week with Paul's sincere appeal that the Corinthians separate themselves from the world.

Nowhere does Paul open his heart to his readers so completely as he does in his second letter [to the Corinthians] as he relates some of God's dealings with him in his inner life.



Alan Redpath (1907 - 1989),
British evangelist and pastor



Previously in 2 Corinthians

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Introduction to 2 Corinthians 7



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What's in 2 Corinthians 7?

Key
Words

- In this chapter Paul expresses the great comfort and joy he received at the recent response of most of the Corinthians.
- While some difficulties remained, it seems the biggest problems he had addressed in his previous letter were now working out.
- This was due to the Corinthian church responding with genuine repentance over sin in the church that had needed some serious correction.

Key Words

There are two key word groups in this chapter.

- Some form of the words **joy** or **rejoice** appears **6x** in these 16 verses.
- In addition, some form of the word **comfort** appears **7x**.



What's in 2 Corinthians 7?

Key
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Introduction to 2 Corinthians 7



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Key Verse

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Introduction to 2 Corinthians 7



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**The Need for
Holiness
7:1**

**Paul's
Comfort and
Joy 7:2-8**

**Godly Grief
in Corinth
7:9-13a**

**The Joy of
Titus
7:13b-16**



The Need for Holiness 7:1

What Promises?

Therefore, since we have **these promises**, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

- The promises of God can motivate us to live holier lives.
- When we focus on the blessings God has in store for us, we can make a diligent effort to obtain the blessings.
- Is this self-centered? Maybe so, but it is self-centered in the best possible way - the way that pleases God.

From Charles Spurgeon

What Promises?

- The promises Paul speaks of are found in the previous verses - the final verses of Chapter 6.

**17 Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,
18 and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”**

- All of us need to hear this since there is always a next step we can take toward greater purity, holiness and reverence for God.



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From Charles Spurgeon

I remember hearing a man say that he had lived for six years without having sinned in either thought, or word, or deed. I apprehended that he committed a sin then, if he had never done so before, in uttering such a proud, boastful speech.



Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892)
London Pastor



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The Text of 2 Corinthians 7



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7:13b-16**



Paul's Comfort and Joy 7:2-8

Comforting
the Downcast

- Here we see Paul's full range of emotions with respect to the Corinthian church.
- He had planted the church and served as their pastor.
- When there were difficulties he considered it his responsibility to address the problems - but did so by a letter in this case.
- While waiting for word from Corinth, Paul was troubled.
- This shows us a very human side of Paul, concerned as to how the church would respond.
- When Titus arrived to tell him the good news that the church made some positive changes, Paul was able to rejoice.

Comforting the Downcast

- Sometimes we imagine Paul and the other apostles were super-saints who somehow always lived above their circumstances.
- It is true Paul probably did better than me in that respect, but he still shows us a very vulnerable side.
- He communicated some harsh things in his letter. Then he had to wait for the response and this only added to his stress.

2 Corinthians
2:12-13

From
Chuck Smith

2 Corinthians
1:3-4

2 Corinthians 2:12-13

12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, 13 my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

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Chuck Smith (1927-2013),
founding pastor of the
Calvary Chapel
Movement

All of those men who have been used mightily by God were no different from us. They experienced the same struggles that we do. Paul ... had fears and discouragement. But he was comforted by the God "who comforts the downcast." The same God, the God of all comfort, is there for you as well.

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

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The Text of 2 Corinthians 7



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7:13b-16**



Godly Grief in Corinth 7:9-13a

Key Verse

- The difference between godly grief and worldly grief is nothing less than the difference between life and death.
- Paul's letter brought the Corinthians to repentance.
- While that is never easy, it is always best in the end.
- Paul, since he was so personally tied up in the well-being of the church, was greatly comforted by this response.

**Revelation
18:9-19**

**From
John Newton**



Key Verse

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.



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**From
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Revelation 18:9-19

- Revelation 18 describes the destruction of the great city of Babylon just before Christ's glorious return in Revelation 19.
- This city has the whole world under its spell as the business, entertainment and political capital of the world.
- When God destroys it there is much sorrow expressed, but it is all worldly grief.
- There does not seem to be a hint of repentance as a result.



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18:9-19**

**From
John Newton**



Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.

Comment:

- The more clearly we see our sin, the more beautiful the cross of Christ will appear.
- When we minimize our sin, we likewise minimize the work of Christ.

John Newton (1725 - 1807), Anglican Minister, former slave trader, composer of Amazing Grace



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The Joy of Titus 7:13b-16

- It's interesting how Paul could rejoice so much in the joy of another person like Titus.
- The joy of both Titus and Paul, in turn, was a result of the response of the Corinthian church.
- It is a sign of spiritual maturity that we rejoice when people are doing well in their walk with the Lord.
- At the same time, when people are doing badly in that respect it ought to grieve us.

**Paul's
Confidence**

**From Warren
Wiersbe**

Paul's Confidence

- **2 Corinthians 7:16** I rejoice because I have complete confidence in you.
- Knowing the Corinthian church this might almost sound sarcastic, but Paul is no doubt saying this with all sincerity.
- He wants to give this church as much encouragement as he can while believing the best about them.
- He is like a coach expressing confidence in his players or a teacher expressing confidence in her students.



The Joy of Titus 7:13b-16

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Warren Wiersbe
(1929 - 2019), Pastor
and Bible Teacher

One of the most difficult things to do is to rebuild a shattered relationship. This Paul tried to do in 2 Corinthians, and especially in chapters 6 and 7. Unfortunately, there are many shattered relationships today—in homes, churches, and ministries—and they can be repaired and strengthened only when people face problems honestly, deal with them biblically and lovingly, and seek to get right with God.



The Joy of Titus 7:13b-16

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From
Tony Evans

Key Verse

From
Charles
Spurgeon

A Final
Prayer

Notice how both Paul and Titus experienced joy over, encouragement from, and affection for other believers because of their obedience to God. How does the obedience or disobedience of your fellow believers affect you? Are you grieved when they stray from the Lord? ... When they honor God through their obedience, do you rejoice and praise God? Kingdom disciples care deeply about the reputation of their King and the welfare of his people.



Tony Evans, pastor
and Bible teacher

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In repentance there is a bitter sweetness, or a sweet bitterness – which shall I call it? – of which, the more you have, the better it is for you. I can truly say that I hardly know a diviner joy than to lay my head in my Heavenly Father's bosom and to say, 'Father, I have sinned, but thou hast forgiven me; and, oh, I do love thee!'



Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892)
London Pastor

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From the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*:

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare all those who confess their faults.
Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all
people in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

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