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2 Corinthians 7
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By Dan Maines

2 Corinthians 7

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let's cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

† Because God dwells among His people and calls them His sons and daughters (2 Corinthians 6:16-18), believers must walk in holiness.

† Holiness is both outward (flesh) and inward (spirit).

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 3.9-12) also spoke of purifying both flesh and spirit, though only in Christ is it fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 7:2-3

Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

† Paul defends his ministry as pure and without exploitation.

† His love for the Corinthians is so deep that he speaks of living and dying together with them.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 47) testified to Paul's sincerity and faithful love toward the Corinthian church.

2 Corinthians 7:4

Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting in your behalf. I am filled with comfort, I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

† Despite affliction, Paul finds joy in the Corinthians' faith.

† This shows the paradox of Christian ministry, affliction does not cancel joy but deepens it.

2 Corinthians 7:5-6

For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side, conflicts on the outside, fears inside. But God, who comforts the discouraged, comforted us by the arrival of Titus.

† Paul admits his weakness and fears, but God comforted him through Titus.

† God often comforts us through the faithfulness of fellow believers.

† Josephus (Wars 2.22.2) described unrest in the region, which provides context to Paul's conflicts.

2 Corinthians 7:7

And not only by his arrival, 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.

† The Corinthians' repentance and renewed loyalty brought Paul joy.

† Godly sorrow produced restoration of their relationship with Paul.

2 Corinthians 7:8-9

For 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, I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance, for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

† Paul distinguishes between worldly sorrow, which brings death, and godly sorrow, which leads to repentance.

† His severe letter produced repentance and restoration.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you, what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

† Godly sorrow produces repentance that brings life.

† The Corinthians' repentance produced zeal, fear of God, and cleansing from sin.

† Origen (On Prayer 30) explained that true repentance transforms behavior, not just emotions.

2 Corinthians 7:12-13

So 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 in our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God. For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

† The purpose of the severe letter was to reveal the Corinthians' earnestness in God's sight.

† Their obedience refreshed Titus, confirming their faith.

2 Corinthians 7:14-16

For if I have boasted to him about you regarding anything, 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. His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.

† Paul's confidence in the Corinthians proved justified.

† Their repentance and obedience produced renewed trust and restored relationship.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.25) highlights Paul's enduring influence in Corinth, showing the truth of this restoration.

How it applies to us today

† 2 Corinthians 7 teaches us the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow.

† Worldly sorrow ends in despair, but godly sorrow leads to repentance and life.

† Holiness requires cleansing of both body and spirit, living as God's sons and daughters.

† God comforts His people in affliction and uses fellow believers to refresh and encourage us.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 3.9-12 - cleansing flesh and spirit

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 47 - Paul's sincerity toward the Corinthians

† Josephus, Wars 2.22.2 - unrest in Macedonia and Judea

† Origen, On Prayer 30 - true repentance transforms conduct

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.25 - Paul's influence in Corinth

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