CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

2 Corinthians Chapter 7 —

Godly Sorrow Produces Repentance

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

2 Corinthians Chapter 7 is one of the most tender chapters Paul ever wrote.

It begins by finishing the call to holiness from Chapter 6.

God has promised to live among His people and to be their Father.

So His people must respond.

“Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit.”

Then Paul opens his heart again.

He asks the Corinthians to make room for him in their hearts.

He had not wronged them, cheated them, or used them.

He loved them, and he was ready to live or die with them.

Then Paul picks up the story he left off in Chapter 2.

He had been waiting anxiously for Titus.

He had sent a painful letter to Corinth, and he did not know how they would respond.

When he came into Macedonia, he had no rest.

“Conflicts outside, fears within.”

But God, who comforts the downcast, sent Titus.

And Titus brought good news.

The Corinthians had listened.

They were sorry.

They had repented.

This leads to one of the most important teachings on repentance in the Bible.

There are two kinds of sorrow.

Godly sorrow leads to repentance and salvation.

Worldly sorrow leads to death.

The chapter ends with joy.

Paul is comforted, Titus is refreshed, and Paul has complete confidence in the Corinthians.

The chapter moves through five movements:

- Cleansing Ourselves in Holiness (verse 1).
- Paul's Appeal for Affection (verses 2–4).
- God's Comfort Through Titus (verses 5–7).
- Godly Sorrow Brings Repentance (verses 8–11).
- Paul's Joy in Their Obedience (verses 12–16).

The central truth of 2 Corinthians 7 is:

God calls His people to holiness, comforts the discouraged through one another, and uses godly sorrow to produce true repentance that leads to salvation, restored relationships, and lasting joy.

I. PERFECTING HOLINESS

2 Corinthians 7:1 — Cleansing Ourselves

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

This verse belongs closely with the end of Chapter 6.

“Since we have these promises.”

Which promises?

God said, **“I will dwell in them and walk among them.”**

He said, **“I will receive you.”**

He said, **“I will be a Father to you.”**

Holiness is our response to God's love, not our way of earning it.

“Beloved.”

Paul does not scold them.

He speaks as one who loves them.

“Let us cleanse ourselves.”

Notice that Paul says **“us.”**

He includes himself.

Holiness is not passive.

Believers must take action to turn away from what is unclean.

“From everything that defiles body and spirit.”

Sin can stain both the body and the spirit.

Some sins are outward, like sexual immorality or drunkenness.

Some sins are inward, like pride, bitterness, or a heart drawn to idols.

God wants both cleansed.

“Perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

“Perfecting” means bringing to completion.

Holiness is a lifelong process of growing more like Christ.

And it is done **“in the fear of God”**—with deep reverence for who He is.

Cross References

1 John 3:3

> Everyone who holds on to this hope in Christ keeps making himself pure, because Jesus is pure.

1 Peter 1:16

> The Scriptures say, “Be holy, because I am holy.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23

> May the God of peace make you completely holy, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept without blame until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back.

Spiritual Principle

God's promises are not a reason to relax about sin; they are the reason to pursue holiness.

Application

Is there anything in your body or spirit that God is asking you to clean out?

II. MAKE ROOM FOR US

2 Corinthians 7:2 — A Clear Conscience

“Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, corrupted no one, and taken advantage of no one.”

In Chapter 6, Paul said, **“Open your hearts also.”**

Now he repeats the appeal.

“Make room for us in your hearts.”

Some in Corinth had pushed Paul out of their hearts.

False teachers had been criticizing him.

Paul asks them to welcome him again.

Then he defends his conduct.

“We have wronged no one.”

He had not treated anyone unfairly.

“Corrupted no one.”

He had not led anyone into false teaching or immoral living.

“Taken advantage of no one.”

He had not used them for money or personal gain.

Some may have accused Paul of these very things.

Paul could answer with a clear conscience.

Cross References

Acts 20:33

> I never wanted anyone's silver, gold, or clothes.

1 Thessalonians 2:5

> As you know, we never used flattering words, and we never used the gospel as a cover for greed. God is our witness.

1 Samuel 12:4

> The people answered Samuel, “You have never cheated us or mistreated us. You have never taken anything from anyone.”

Spiritual Principle

A leader with clean hands can ask for an open heart.

Application

Could you say, as Paul did, that you have taken advantage of no one?

III. TO LIVE AND TO DIE TOGETHER

2 Corinthians 7:3 — In Our Hearts

“I do not say this to condemn you; for I have already said that you are in our hearts, to live and to die together.”

Paul did not want them to misunderstand him.

“I do not say this to condemn you.”

He was not defending himself in order to accuse them.

He was not trying to make them feel guilty.

“You are in our hearts.”

Paul had said this before.

The Corinthians were not just a church he had planted.

They were people he loved.

“To live and to die together.”

This is the language of the deepest loyalty.

Paul was saying, **“Whatever happens, I am with you.”**

In life or in death, he would not abandon them.

Cross References

Philippians 1:7

> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, because you are in my heart. Whether I am in chains or defending the gospel, you all share in God's grace with me.

2 Corinthians 3:2

> You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, and everyone can know it and read it.

Acts 21:13

> Paul answered, “Why are you crying and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be tied up but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Spiritual Principle

Real Christian love is committed for life, not just for convenience.

Application

Are you committed to your church family in good times and hard times?

IV. JOY IN AFFLICTION

2 Corinthians 7:4 — Overflowing with Joy

“I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am filled with comfort, and in all our affliction, I overflow with joy.”

Paul's tone now becomes warm and joyful.

“I have great confidence in you.”

Paul could speak openly and boldly with them.

“I take great pride in you.”

Even with all their problems, Paul was proud of what God was doing in them.

“I am filled with comfort.”

The news from Titus had filled Paul's heart.

“In all our affliction, I overflow with joy.”

Paul was still suffering.

His troubles had not disappeared.

But his joy was overflowing anyway.

Joy and affliction can live side by side in a believer's heart.

Cross References

Colossians 1:24

> I am glad to suffer for you now. In my body I am sharing in Christ's sufferings for the sake of His body, the church.

2 Corinthians 1:4

> God comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others in their troubles with the same comfort God gave us.

James 1:2

> My brothers and sisters, when you face all kinds of trials, think of it as a reason for great joy.

Spiritual Principle

God can fill a heart with joy even while trouble surrounds it.

Key Truth

Joy is not the absence of affliction; it is the presence of God's comfort in the middle of it.

V. CONFLICTS OUTSIDE, FEARS WITHIN

2 Corinthians 7:5 — No Rest in Macedonia

“For when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side—conflicts outside, fears within.”

Paul now returns to the story he began in Chapter 2.

There he said he had no peace of mind because he did not find Titus in Troas.

So he went on to Macedonia.

“Our bodies had no rest.”

Paul was physically worn out.

“We were afflicted on every side.”

Trouble came from every direction.

“Conflicts outside.”

There were fights and opposition from others.

“Fears within.”

Inside, Paul was anxious.

He was worried about the Corinthians.

He was worried about Titus.

This is an honest look at a great apostle.

Paul was not a superhero.

He felt fear.

He got tired.

He struggled with worry.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 32:25

> Out in the street the sword will take their children, and inside their homes terror will strike.

2 Corinthians 2:13

> My spirit could not rest, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 4:8

> We are pressed hard on every side, but we are not crushed. We are confused, but we do not give up hope.

Spiritual Principle

Even faithful servants of God can feel exhausted and afraid.

Application

Do you feel free to be honest with God about your fears?

VI. THE GOD WHO COMFORTS THE DOWNCAST

2 Corinthians 7:6 — The Arrival of Titus

“But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the arrival of Titus,”

Notice the turning point.

“But God.”

Two of the most hopeful words in the Bible.

Paul was worn out and afraid.

But God stepped in.

“Who comforts the downcast.”

This describes who God is.

He is the God who lifts up those who are low.

He notices the discouraged.

He cares for those who are sinking.

“Comforted us by the arrival of Titus.”

How did God comfort Paul?

Not through a vision.

Not through an angel.

Through a friend walking through the door.

God often sends His comfort through His people.

Cross References

Isaiah 49:13

> Shout for joy, heavens! Celebrate, earth! The Lord comforts His people and shows mercy to those who are suffering.

Isaiah 66:13

> The Lord says, “I will comfort you the way a mother comforts her child.”

2 Corinthians 1:4

> God comforts us in every trouble, so that we can turn and comfort others with the same comfort we received from Him.

Spiritual Principle

God comforts the discouraged, and He often does it through the people He sends.

Application

Who could God use you to comfort this week?

VII. COMFORT UPON COMFORT

2 Corinthians 7:7 — Their Longing, Sorrow, and Zeal

“and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you gave him. He told us of your longing for me, your deep sorrow, and your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.”

Paul was comforted in two ways.

First, by seeing Titus.

Second, by the news Titus brought.

“The comfort you gave him.”

The Corinthians had encouraged Titus.

Now Titus passed that encouragement on to Paul.

Comfort spreads.

Titus told Paul three things about the Corinthians.

“Your longing for me.”

They wanted to see Paul again.

“Your deep sorrow.”

They were truly sorry for what had happened.

“Your zeal for me.”

They were now eager to stand with Paul.

“So that I rejoiced even more.”

Paul's fear turned into joy.

Cross References

Philippians 2:28

> So I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you will be glad, and I will have less to worry about.

2 Corinthians 2:13

> My mind had no peace because Titus, my brother, was not there to meet me.

Romans 15:32

> Then, if God wants it, I can come to you with joy and be refreshed by spending time with you.

Spiritual Principle

Comfort passes from heart to heart in the body of Christ.

Key Truth

When you encourage one believer, your encouragement often reaches others you will never meet.

VIII. THE PAINFUL LETTER

2 Corinthians 7:8 — No Regret

“For though my letter made you grieve, I do not regret it—though I did regret it for a while, for I see that my letter grieved you, though only for a season.”

Paul now talks about the letter he had written.

Bible students are not sure exactly which letter this was.

Some think it was 1 Corinthians.

Many think it was a separate, painful letter that has not been preserved.

Either way, Paul's words had hurt them.

“Though my letter made you grieve, I do not regret it.”

Paul was not sorry he sent it.

“Though I did regret it for a while.”

But Paul is honest.

After he sent it, he worried.

Had he been too hard?

Would it drive them away?

“Though only for a season.”

The pain was real, but it was temporary.

Sometimes love must say hard things.

And the one who says them may feel the pain too.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 2:4

> I wrote to you with a troubled and hurting heart and with many tears. I did not want to cause you pain. I wanted you to know how much I love you.

Hebrews 12:11

> No discipline feels good while it is happening; it hurts. But later it produces a peaceful harvest of right living for those who have been trained by it.

Proverbs 27:6

> The wounds a friend gives you can be trusted, but an enemy covers you with kisses.

Spiritual Principle

Loving correction may hurt for a season, but it is meant to heal.

Application

Is there a hard but loving word you need to speak, or to receive?

IX. SORROW THAT LEADS TO REPENTANCE

2 Corinthians 7:9 — Grieved in a Godly Way

“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were grieved in a godly way, so that you suffered no loss through us.”

Paul is careful to explain his joy.

“Not that you were made sorry.”

Paul took no pleasure in their pain.

“But that your sorrow led to repentance.”

Sorrow was not the goal.

Repentance was the goal.

Repentance means a change of mind and heart that leads to a change of direction.

It means turning from sin and turning toward God.

“You were grieved in a godly way.”

Their sorrow was directed toward God.

It was not just embarrassment.

It was not just being sorry they got caught.

They saw their sin as God sees it.

“So that you suffered no loss through us.”

Paul's letter did not harm them.

In the end, it helped them.

Cross References

Psalm 51:17

> What God wants is a broken spirit. God, You will not turn away a heart that is broken and sorry for sin.

Matthew 5:4

> God blesses those who mourn, because He will comfort them.

Joel 2:13

> Do not just tear your clothes; tear your hearts instead. Come back to the Lord your God, because He is kind and full of mercy. He is slow to get angry and full of love.

Spiritual Principle

The goal of sorrow over sin is not misery but repentance.

Key Truth

Feeling bad is not the same as repenting.

X. TWO KINDS OF SORROW

2 Corinthians 7:10 — Godly Sorrow and Worldly Sorrow

“For godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow produces death.”

This is the key verse of the chapter.

Paul describes two kinds of sorrow.

Godly Sorrow

“Godly sorrow produces repentance.”

Godly sorrow grieves because sin offends God.

It turns a person back to Him.

“That leads to salvation.”

It leads to forgiveness, healing, and life.

“And leaves no regret.”

No one ever regrets turning back to God.

Worldly Sorrow

“But worldly sorrow produces death.”

Worldly sorrow is sorry about the consequences.

It is sorry about getting caught.

It is sorry about losing reputation.

But it does not turn to God.

It turns inward.

It can lead to despair, bitterness, and spiritual death.

The New Testament gives a clear example of both.

Judas felt terrible after betraying Jesus.

But he did not turn to Jesus.

He went away in despair.

Peter also failed Jesus by denying Him three times.

He wept bitterly.

But he came back.

And Jesus restored him.

Cross References

Matthew 27:5

> Judas threw the silver coins into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Luke 22:62

> Peter went outside and cried with deep sorrow.

Psalm 51:17

> The sacrifice God wants is a humble spirit. He will not reject a heart that is broken and sorry.

Spiritual Principle

Godly sorrow turns us toward God; worldly sorrow turns us away from Him.

Spiritual Warning

Do not settle for regret that only makes you feel bad. Let your sorrow bring you back to God.

XI. THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

2 Corinthians 7:11 — What Godly Sorrow Produced

“See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what readiness to see justice done! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in this matter.”

Paul now shows what real repentance looks like.

It produced seven things in the Corinthians.

“What earnestness.”

They began to take the matter seriously.

“What eagerness to clear yourselves.”

They wanted to make things right.

“What indignation.”

They became angry at the sin itself.

“What fear.”

They had a new reverence for God.

“What longing.”

They longed to be restored to Paul.

“What zeal.”

They acted with energy and passion.

“What readiness to see justice done!”

They were willing to deal with the wrong.

“At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in this matter.”

This does not mean they had never done wrong.

It means that by their response, they had now handled the matter rightly.

True repentance is not only a feeling.

It produces visible fruit.

Cross References

Romans 12:11

> Never let your eagerness fade. Keep your spiritual fire burning as you serve the Lord.

Titus 2:14

> Jesus gave Himself for us to set us free from all evil and to make us His own people, pure and eager to do good.

Acts 24:16

> So I always try hard to keep my conscience clear before God and before people.

Spiritual Principle

True repentance shows itself in changed attitudes and changed actions.

Application

When you repent, does it lead to real change?

XII. WHY PAUL WROTE

2 Corinthians 7:12 — Their Earnestness Revealed

“So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, or the one who suffered it, but that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.”

Paul explains the deeper purpose of his letter.

“Not for the sake of the one who did the wrong.”

This likely refers to the offender mentioned in Chapter 2.

Bible students differ on who he was.

Some connect him with the man in 1 Corinthians 5.

Many think he was someone who had openly opposed or insulted Paul.

“Or the one who suffered it.”

This may refer to Paul himself, or to someone else who was hurt.

Paul does not name anyone.

“But that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you.”

The main purpose was for the church to see its own heart.

Would they stand for what was right?

Would they show their care for Paul?

“In the sight of God.”

All of this happened before God.

The real issue was their faithfulness to Him.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 2:9

> That is why I wrote to you. I wanted to test you and find out whether you would obey in everything.

2 Corinthians 2:4

> I wrote with deep pain and many tears, not to hurt you, but so you would know how deep my love for you is.

Galatians 6:1

> Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should gently help that person back. But watch yourself, or you may be tempted too.

Spiritual Principle

God sometimes allows hard situations to reveal what is really in our hearts.

Application

What has a recent trial shown you about your own heart?

XIII. A REFRESHED SPIRIT

2 Corinthians 7:13 — The Joy of Titus

“Because of this, we have been comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.”

“Because of this, we have been comforted.”

The church's response comforted Paul.

“We rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus.”

Paul was not only glad for himself.

He was glad for Titus.

Titus may have gone to Corinth nervous about how he would be received.

Instead he was welcomed.

“His spirit has been refreshed by you all.”

“Refreshed” means given rest and new strength.

The Corinthians had become a blessing to the very man sent to correct them.

This is what happens when a church receives correction humbly.

Instead of conflict, there is refreshment.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 16:18

> They lifted my spirit, and yours too. People like this deserve to be honored.

Philemon 1:7

> Your love has brought me great joy and encouragement, my brother, because you have refreshed the hearts of God's people.

Romans 15:32

> Then, if it is God's will, I can come to you full of joy and be refreshed by being with you.

Spiritual Principle

A humble, repentant church refreshes the hearts of God's servants.

Application

Do the people who serve you leave refreshed or worn down?

XIV. BOASTING PROVED TRUE

2 Corinthians 7:14 — Not Put to Shame

“For if I have boasted anything about you to him, 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.”

Before Titus went to Corinth, Paul had spoken well of the Corinthians.

He had told Titus that they would respond rightly.

“I was not put to shame.”

They did not let Paul down.

“Just as everything we said to you was true.”

Paul had always been truthful with them.

“So also our boasting before Titus has proved true.”

Paul's words about them were also true.

Paul believed the best about them even in a hard season.

And his hope was not disappointed.

Cross References

Romans 5:5

> This hope will never let us down, because God has poured His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit He gave us.

Proverbs 12:22

> The Lord hates lying lips, but He is pleased with people who are truthful.

Philippians 1:20

> I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will have courage, so that Christ will be honored by my life.

Spiritual Principle

Speak truthfully, and believe the best about God's people.

Key Truth

Love hopes for the best in others, even before it sees it.

XV. FEAR AND TREMBLING

2 Corinthians 7:15 — Titus' Growing Affection

“And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers how you all obeyed him, receiving him with fear and trembling.”

“His affection for you is even greater.”

Titus now loved the Corinthians more than before.

“As he remembers how you all obeyed him.”

They had listened to the message Titus brought.

They had followed through.

“Receiving him with fear and trembling.”

This does not mean they were terrified of Titus.

It means they received him with deep respect and seriousness.

They knew he came with a message from God's apostle.

They took God's word seriously.

The result was love.

Obedience did not create distance.

It created deeper affection.

Cross References

Philippians 2:12

> So, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, keep working out your salvation with deep respect and trembling before God.

Philippians 2:29

> Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and give honor to people like him.

Ephesians 6:5

> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and sincere hearts, just as you would obey Christ.

Spiritual Principle

Receiving God's word with reverence builds love between believers.

Application

How do you receive those who bring you God's word?

XVI. COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

2 Corinthians 7:16 — Paul's Joy

“I rejoice that I have complete confidence in you.”

The chapter ends with joy.

“I rejoice.”

The fear is gone.

The worry is gone.

The relationship is restored.

“I have complete confidence in you.”

This was quite a change.

The Corinthians had been divided and troubled.

But now Paul trusted them fully.

This verse also prepares for Chapters 8 and 9.

There Paul will ask them to give generously for the poor believers in Jerusalem.

His confidence in them gives him the freedom to ask.

Cross References

Philemon 1:21

> I am writing because I am sure you will obey. I know you will do even more than I am asking.

2 Thessalonians 3:4

> We trust the Lord that you are doing what we told you, and that you will keep doing it.

Galatians 5:10

> I am confident in the Lord that you will not believe anything different. The one who is troubling you will face God's judgment, whoever he is.

Spiritual Principle

Repentance restores trust, and restored trust brings joy.

Key Truth

God can turn a broken relationship into a joyful one.

XVII. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 7

1. Holiness Is Active

“Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit.”

Principle:

Believers must continually cleanse themselves from both physical and spiritual defilement, walking in reverence toward God.

2. Ministry Requires Open Hearts

“Make room for us in your hearts.”

Principle:

Paul shows love, honesty, and confidence in the Corinthians, modeling Christlike care.

3. God Comforts the Discouraged

“But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the arrival of Titus.”

Principle:

Just as He encouraged Paul through Titus and the Corinthians, God strengthens His people through others.

4. True Repentance Flows from Godly Sorrow

“Godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret.”

Principle:

Unlike worldly regret that destroys, godly sorrow produces lasting change and salvation.

5. Obedience Brings Unity and Joy

“I rejoice that I have complete confidence in you.”

Principle:

The Corinthians' repentance and obedience refreshed Titus and confirmed Paul's confidence in them.

XVIII. GODLY SORROW AND WORLDLY SORROW

Verse 10 gives one of the clearest contrasts in the Bible.

Godly Sorrow

- Grieves because sin offends God.
- Turns toward God.
- Leads to repentance.
- Brings forgiveness and salvation.
- Leaves no regret.

- Example: Peter, who wept and was restored.

Worldly Sorrow

- Grieves because of consequences.
- Turns inward.
- Leads to shame without change.
- Brings despair.
- Produces death.
- Example: Judas, who was sorry but did not return to Jesus.

Key Truth

The difference is not how much we hurt, but where our hurt takes us.

XIX. SEVEN MARKS OF TRUE REPENTANCE

Verse 11 shows what godly sorrow produced in Corinth.

1. Earnestness

Taking sin seriously.

2. Eagerness to Clear Themselves

Wanting to make things right.

3. Indignation

Being angry at the sin.

4. Fear

A fresh reverence for God.

5. Longing

A desire for restored fellowship.

6. Zeal

Energy to do what is right.

7. Readiness to See Justice Done

Willingness to deal with the wrong.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Real repentance does not stop at tears; it moves the heart, the mind, and the hands.

XX. HOW GOD COMFORTS HIS PEOPLE

Verses 5–7 and 13 show how God brought comfort to Paul.

Through a Friend's Presence

“By the arrival of Titus.”

Through Good News

“He told us of your longing for me.”

Through Restored Relationships

“Your zeal for me.”

Through the Joy of Others

“We rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus.”

What This Means for Us

- God sees the downcast.
- God often answers through people.
- We can be the answer to someone else's prayer.
- Encouragement passes from one heart to another.

Key Truth

Sometimes the comfort God sends walks through the door with a familiar face.

XXI. WHAT 2 CORINTHIANS 7 TEACHES ABOUT GOD

He Keeps His Promises

“Since we have these promises.”

He Is Holy and Worthy of Reverence

“Perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

He Comforts the Downcast

“But God, who comforts the downcast.”

He Works Through People

“Comforted us by the arrival of Titus.”

He Leads Sinners to Repentance

“You were grieved in a godly way.”

He Saves

“Repentance that leads to salvation.”

He Sees Our Hearts

“In the sight of God.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The holy God who calls us to clean lives is the same tender God who lifts us up when we are low.

XXII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What promises does Paul mean in verse 1?

The promises at the end of Chapter 6: God will live among His people, welcome them, and be their Father.

Question 2

What does it mean to cleanse ourselves from what defiles body and spirit?

To turn away from outward sins of the body and inward sins of the heart.

Question 3

Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to make room for him in their hearts?

Some had pulled away from him because of false teachers and criticism.

He wanted their love and trust restored.

Question 4

How could Paul overflow with joy in affliction?

His joy came from God's comfort and from the good news about the Corinthians, not from easy circumstances.

Question 5

What does verse 5 show us about Paul?

He was human.

He felt tired, troubled, and afraid.

Question 6

How did God comfort Paul?

Through the arrival of Titus and the good report Titus brought from Corinth.

Question 7

Why did Paul regret his letter for a while?

He feared it might hurt them too much or push them away.

Question 8

What is godly sorrow?

Sorrow over sin because it offends God, leading to repentance and a changed life.

Question 9

What is worldly sorrow?

Sorrow about consequences or shame that does not turn to God and leads to death.

Question 10

What did godly sorrow produce in the Corinthians?

Earnestness, eagerness to clear themselves, indignation, fear, longing, zeal, and readiness to see justice done.

Question 11

Why did Paul say he wrote the letter?

So the Corinthians could see their own devotion and faithfulness before God.

Question 12

What should 2 Corinthians 7 change about the way Christians live today?

2 Corinthians 7 should cause believers to live:

- Actively pursuing holiness.
- Keeping a clear conscience toward others.
- Keeping their hearts open to God's people.
- Being honest with God about their fears.
- Comforting others who are discouraged.

- Receiving correction humbly.
- Repenting with godly sorrow, not just regret.
- Bringing joy and refreshment to those who serve them.

XXIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

2 Corinthians 7 asks several important questions.

Am I Pursuing Holiness?

Or have I grown comfortable with sin?

Is My Heart Open?

Have I closed my heart to someone God wants me to love?

Am I Honest About My Struggles?

Do I bring my fears to God, or hide them?

Who Needs My Comfort?

Is there someone God wants me to visit, call, or encourage?

How Do I Respond to Correction?

Do I become defensive, or do I listen?

What Kind of Sorrow Do I Have?

When I sin, am I sorry because I got caught, or because I hurt God?

Does My Repentance Bear Fruit?

Is there real change in my life?

Do I Refresh Others?

Do God's servants leave my presence encouraged?

XXIV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Where Does Your Sorrow Lead?”

Everyone feels sorrow over sin at some point.

Judas felt it.

Peter felt it.

Both men failed Jesus on the same night.

Both men wept.

Both men were deeply sorry.

But their stories ended very differently.

Judas carried his guilt alone.

He turned away.

His sorrow led to death.

Peter carried his guilt back to Jesus.

He returned.

And Jesus restored him and gave him work to do.

The difference was not the size of their sin.

It was not the depth of their tears.

It was the direction of their sorrow.

This creates a powerful principle.

Sorrow that leads you away from God will destroy you.

Sorrow that leads you to God will heal you.

Principle:

Never let guilt drive you away from God; let it drive you to Him.

XXV. FINAL APPLICATION

2 Corinthians Chapter 7 is a chapter of restoration.

It calls believers to holiness.

It shows a pastor's open heart.

It shows that even great servants of God feel fear.

It shows the God who comforts the downcast.

And it shows the difference between sorrow that kills and sorrow that saves.

Paul's painful letter did not destroy the church.

It helped heal it.

2 Corinthians 7 therefore reminds us:

Never treat God's promises as permission to sin.

Never close your heart to God's people.

Never think you are alone in your fear.

Never confuse regret with repentance.

Never let guilt keep you away from God.

The church does not need people who never fail.

It needs:

Believers who pursue holiness.

Hearts that stay open.

Friends who bring comfort.

And sinners who return to God with godly sorrow.

The same God still calls:

Tell people that God comforts the downcast.

Tell people that godly sorrow leads to salvation.

Tell people that no one ever regrets turning back to God.

Tell people that broken relationships can be restored.

And as you live:

Cleanse your life.

Open your heart.

Comfort the discouraged.

Return to God whenever you fall.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your promises to live among us and be our Father.

Thank You that You are the God who comforts the downcast.

Thank You for the people You send to encourage us when we are worn out and afraid.

Thank You that You do not leave us in our sin, but lead us to repentance.

Thank You that godly sorrow leads to salvation and leaves no regret.

Thank You that broken relationships can be healed by Your grace.

Forgive us when we have grown comfortable with sin.

Forgive us when we have closed our hearts to others.

Forgive us when we have been sorry only for the consequences of our sin.

Forgive us when we have run from You instead of to You.

Help us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit.

Help us grow in holiness with reverence for You.

Make us people who comfort others.

Give us humble hearts to receive correction.

Let our repentance bear real fruit.

And let our lives refresh and encourage those who serve You.

“For godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“For godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow produces death.” — 2 Corinthians 7:10

Central Truth

God calls His people to holiness, comforts the discouraged through one another, and uses godly sorrow to produce true repentance that leads to salvation, restored relationships, and lasting joy.

2 Corinthians 7 in One Sentence

Paul urges believers to cleanse themselves and perfect holiness, pleads for open hearts, tells how God comforted him through Titus and the good news from Corinth, and explains that godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, while worldly sorrow produces death.