

St. Paul's epistle 19, 10 11/11  
(Publish)

GODLY SORROW

2 Cor. 7

One of more titanic struggles of Paul's entire ministry was when he sought to restore the church at Corinth. This task required two letters.

The church of our day is very much in the same condition.

Governor Ronald Reagan of California expressed this belief on February 5, 1970 as he spoke at a luncheon. "Mankind is at the crossroads, and is either going further down a wrong path or is suddenly going to dig in his heels and turn in another direction, and we're going to see one of the great spiritual revivals of all times. I'm optimistic enough to believe that that is the turn man is going to take."

He is not only expressed hope for revival but said "he doesn't know how a public official could possibly bear the burdens of office, without a belief in God and without God's help."

"The great unsolved problems could be solved immediately, if all of us would simply heed once again and put into practice the words that were given to us and the pattern for living that was given to us by the man of Galilee."

Paul worked for this same thing - the church at Corinth had sunk into carnality. He worked for a revival. Envy, strife, divisions. I Cor. 3:3; puffed up 4:8 gas bags.

He had in mind to visit the church, but he was delayed.

He sent Titus to represent him and he brought back a report of their transformation. This brought Paul joy. Living life of victory.

- I. First, Paul describes the circumstances when transformation took place - V. 1-7.
- V. 1 - Since you have so many precious promises - 6:17-18 - Come out - I will receive you. Urges them to cleanse themselves as from filth or pollution both of flesh and spirit. Physical and moral and mental.

Perfecting holiness - to bring to an end or complete, accomplish, perform, in the fear of God.

Keep on striving - goodness is not enough. It must be a positive, aggressive one. Not just practice but carry on to perfection - why? As temples of God purity is required.

V. 2 - Paul gives answer to the minority.

Open your hearts - make a space for us. There was a tightness in their hearts. He answers their charges.

We have wronged no man - a thing that every preacher strives for. Treated no one unjustly.

We have corrupted no man - we ruined no one in money or morals or doctrine.

We have defrauded no man - we took advantage of no man. Careful to avoid suspicion, as to the disposition of the money which he had raised among the churches.

None of these things at any time has been done!

V. 3 - Paul gives answer to the majority.

In defending myself, I do not mean to condemn you - I do not infer that you have wronged me - I do not question your love.

They know his heart - you are in our hearts, to live and die with you.

V. 4 - He can speak with much boldness on behalf of the church. They have filled him with courage and comfort, because of this he has a flood of joy.

He was disposed to tell everyone how well his dear Corinthians had behaved.

This had come.

V. 5 - On his way back to Corinth. Left traces and had hastened into Macedonia that he might meet Titus on his way back from Corinth.

This anxiety was now all gone. His mind was at rest.

Macedonia - Paul did not leave his troubles behind him in Troas. 2:12, 13.

His flesh has no rest. No relief.

Fightings without - pagan adversaries.

Fears within - mental disturbance.

Paul found trouble on every turn. There was something distressing in every direction that Paul turned.

V. 6 - Most interesting as Paul tells of his personal experiences in regard to the transformation which took place in the church at Corinth.

Comfort came - by the coming of Titus, God sent him comfort. Pleasure of seeing Titus.

God often does this for Christians, have you been under a burden - comfort arrives. Low condition.

V. 7 - Titus and Paul found comfort in prayer together. The news Titus brought, was good news of the transformation in the church and this report.

Heard of their earnest desire to see Paul,

Head of their mourning on account of their sins.

Wailing, lamentation. Matt. 2:18.

Heard of their fervent mind toward Paul.

Heard of their zeal and interest in Paul. Gal. 4:17.

Most gratifying to him that in a church in which he had met much opposition, and encountered false teachers, the majority of the people now have proved themselves and are devoted friends of Paul.

A transformation had taken place due to Godly Sorrow. From these items of personal interest --

✓ II. How Godly Sorrow was Produced - V. 8

V. 8 - The transformation was set in motion by a letter - Titus brought tidings resulting from Paul's first letter.

It had produced godly sorrow which expressed itself in repentance.

It made them sorry, yet did them good.

I was in a regretful mood at first, but he never doubted as to the truth

he had written. He regretted he had to make them feel sorry. He was grieved at having given the Christians pain.

Sorrow was produced as he rebuked them of sin. He told of the incestuous person. *Godly Sorrow - Sorrow Towards God - Not Man.*

Holy Spirit urged Paul - letter - Word of God.  
*Brought them back to The love of Christ.*

✓ III. What Were the Results of Godly Sorrow? 9-16

First Worked Repentance

V. 9 - Rejoiced not in their grief but that their grief led them to repentance.

Parent rejoices when he sees his child mourning over his sins, however, much he sympathizes in his grief.

Sorrowed unto repentance - change of mind, of heart, purpose and a turning from sin. Such is the repentance here intended.

God approved of their sorrow, it had resulted in spiritual good. This was after a godly sort, not mere remorse or regret, the change in their attitude is what counted. God's way as Opposed to Satan's way.

They were sorry, regretted what they had done, but they were made so sorry that it changed so that they will not do it again.

Wonderful in Heaven, you can tell what changed your life.

Possible to be sorry and full of remorse without ever repenting. You can have sorrow and it will have nothing to do with God. One may grieve with broken heart over sin, consequences of sin, and never come to repentance. I've seen cases of this nature. They see crime as one thing, wrongdoing as another, sin as another - sin is an offense against the law of God. *Rich Young Ruler - Went away sorrowful!*

Repentance begins when a man faces the law of God.

Feels sorry enough for sin - sorry enough to trust in the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Text - reality of repentance - separates sorrow and repentance.

Jonah - recovered himself - preached the power of God in Nineveh and city repented.

Not crying, vain regret, wishing things had never happened, wishing you could live the moments over again.

V. 10 - Difference sorrow of world and godly sorrow.

Sense of remorse, defeat, failure - frustrated by inner sin - driven to the limit even suicide - heart aches - poor boy and girl has a battle worketh death.

Godly sorrow brings conviction - as David,

"Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned".

See your sin against God - is it right about-turn or

Is it as you were?

Repentance is a complete switch. Change of direction. Worketh salvation!

Cannot have salvation without repentance. No salvation without forsaking sin

- no use for Preacher to say believe, believe - unless he says

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

And let him return unto the Lord, and he will abundantly pardon".

Could my zeal no respite know,

Could my tears forever flow,

All for sin could not atone;

Thou must save, and Thou alone.

We may fight, struggle, do everything under the sun rather than see this truth. There must be faith and repentance.

Sorrow of the world - misery natural element of sin.

Rev. 16:10-11 - The wicked are said to have blasphemed, curse the God of Heaven and they repented not of their deeds.

✓ Second, Clears yourself - V. 11

V. 11 - This self same thing - results of this experience. Evidence that it was of a godly sort.

Great carefulness - what haste.

Corinthian Church members has allowed a (grievous sin) to pass on unnoticed as a

matter of no importance.

First manifestation of godly sorrow was a desire to correct the thing.

Wanted to clear themselves.

Careful about the company they keep, places they go, steered clear of temptation. What care not self-justification, -- careful not to leave one line of retreat. Refuse to get entangled in a sinful situation again. Without compromise.

Care to root out evil.

### Indignation

Felt angry at themselves for their past misconduct. This is a good mark of sincere penitent - meanness, wickedness, **seek** vengeance on himself.

What Fear - reverence - watchfulness. People will notice the difference in the way he walks and talks. Flippancy knocked out of life.

Fear of punishment help bring repentance.

What Zeal - For Christian service and in taking the side of Paul.

What Revenge - Godly Sorrow aroused them to sense of justice, moral judgment - sin ought to be punished.

Once member of the church committs an offense - the whole church repents.  
Believers are one body in Jesus Christ. Every one members one of another. One suffers - all suffer.

### Third, Exposes Sin

V. 12 - I interfered with your affairs.

I Cor. 5:1 - Father whose wife the son had married. Able to see their sin exposed.

✓ Fourth, Brought Refreshment To All.

V. 13 - Proud of the outcome of his labours at Corinth.

Paul's joy enhaunched.

Letter had led to repentance - He was comforted by their repentance!

A comfort to find Titus full of joy - but greatest comfort from their repentance - Heaven rejoices.

✓ Fifth, Appears before all.

V. 14 - Titus satisfied with what he saw at Corinth.

Paul had boasted to him of this church.

Open before all.

V. 15 - They were lovable - warmed his heart inward affection.

✓ Sixth, Leads to Confidence - V. 16

Godly Sorrow works repentance, clears a person, exposes sin for him, refreshes fellow Christians, appears before the world making them lovable, and in conclusion results in confidence.

Church was restored to full confidence. Paul had confidence in.

III. - Sam P. Jones - Brilliant Attorney at Law - Alcoholic - Earnest exhortation of his dying Christian father. Sam was converted and soon a minister - successful pastor of Methodist Church.

Hour of temptation - young preacher fell into sin. Drunken spree, rode horse back through the town where he was pastor.

Upon becoming sober, great humiliation - tendered his resignation. Superintendent and Official Board refused to accept his resignation.

Deeply repentant - recalled him as pastor - their confidence was fully justified - outstanding evangelist in history.

Secret of confidence found in their committment.

2 Cor. 5:6 - Come what may ~~them~~, I am confident.

X At noon State Legislature in Session in Hartford, Conn. during 18th Century. The sky suddenly became like midnight.

The members of the lower house dissolved in disorder. Rushed home to their families.

~~Senate~~ it was proposed they ajourn that they might make peace with God before the end of the world.

Abe Davenport said - If it is the end of the world, we need not adjourn. I would rather be here doing my duty when God finds me. I move candles be brought in that we go on with the business of the commonwealth.