

## 2 Corinthians 7:1-16 **Impact of the first letter to the Corinthians**

### Perfecting Holiness in the fear of God

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

### Pondering on First Corinthians

<sup>2</sup> Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. <sup>3</sup> I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

<sup>4</sup> Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

<sup>5</sup> For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.

### Comforted by arrival of Titus

<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup> and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

### Impact of first letter to the Corinthians – Godly Sorrow

<sup>8</sup> For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

<sup>11</sup> For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

### Rejoicing for report from Titus regarding the Corinthians – Complete confidence in Corinthians

<sup>13</sup> Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. <sup>14</sup> For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true. <sup>15</sup> And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Perfecting Holiness in the fear of God [2 Corinthians 7:1]

- ✚ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

- ✧ The promises Paul is referring to at this point are found in the ending of the previous chapter, namely: [\[2 Corinthians 6:16-18\]](#)
  - ✧ You are the temple of the Living God. As God has said;
  - ✧ I will dwell in them and walk among them.
  - ✧ I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
  - ✧ Come out from among them and be separate, says Yehowah, do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.
  - ✧ I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty (El Shaddai)

#### **Pondering on First Corinthians** [\[2 Corinthians 7:2-5\]](#)

- ✧ Paul was very grieved at the possibility that his first letter had been too harsh and might have offended the Corinthians. [\[2 Corinthians 2:1-4\]](#)
  - ✧ Now that Titus has joined them with a report from Corinth, Paul realizes that his first letter did not crush the spirit of the Corinthians, and that he did not wrong anyone.
  - ✧ Paul then confirms his love for the saints at Corinth, that they are in his heart in life or death.
  - ✧ This news has comforted Paul and his companions to the point that they are strengthened in all the tribulation they face in Asia and Macedonia knowing it is worth it all because the Saints are strengthened.

#### **Comforted by arrival of Titus** [\[2 Corinthians 7:6-7\]](#)

- ✧ Titus had reported the reception he encountered at Corinth and of the Corinthians earnest love and zeal for Paul and his company, mourning their absence and expressing a great desire for their return.
  - ✧ This news gives Paul even more rejoicing.

#### **Impact of first letter to the Corinthians – Godly Sorrow** [\[2 Corinthians 7:8-12\]](#)

- ✧ Paul sees a positive outcome from his first letter to the Corinthians:
  - ✧ Godly sorrow led to repentance.
  - ✧ Godly sorrow that leads to repentance, repentance leads to Salvation, and that is nothing to regret.
  - ✧ Worldly sorrow leads to death.
  - ✧ The sorrow in Corinth was godly, producing diligence, clearing of their name, indignation against evil, Zeal for righteousness, and vindication of their reputation.
  - ✧ In all things they proved themselves clear of guilt.
- ✧ Paul's intent in writing the first letter was to demonstrate his deep concern for the Corinthians in the sight of God, which he desired to be realized by the Corinthians.

#### **Rejoicing for report from Titus regarding the Corinthians – Complete confidence in Corinthians** [\[2 Corinthians 7:13-16\]](#)

- ✧ The report from Titus concerning the Corinthians comforted the hearts of Paul and his companions causing them to rejoice even more.
  - ✧ Titus had been strengthened and refreshed by the Corinthians, and his affections for them grew greatly, as he remembers how they had obeyed Paul's counsel and their reception of him.
  - ✧ Paul's boasting on their behalf had proven to be true.
  - ✧ Paul is now able to rejoice that he has confidence in the Corinthians in everything.