

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

August 3, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Last Letter (Second Corinthians)

Text – 2 Corinthians 7 – *Reflections from the Revival*

Memory Verse – 2 Corinthians 7:16

I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

Introduction

In chapter seven Paul paused to reflect on the progress that the church at Corinth had made. He was careful not to overload them with rebuke. To be sure there was much work to be done at Corinth; but Paul wanted to comfort them and commend them for their repentance and the revival that was taking place in their midst. Perhaps, the greatest compliment Paul would give any church is recorded in verse 16. We need to be careful not to overbearing on the people we are ministering to. It is often wise to offer encouragement along with the necessary rebuke.

I. Reinforcing and Rejoicing (vs. 1 – 4)

A. They are Called to Holiness (v. 1; Ephesians 4:22 - 24; 1 Thessalonians 4:7;

Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:16) - Holiness should be the outward reflection of the inward position.

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" (Hebrews 12:14)

"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16)

B. **They are Challenged to Receive the Apostle (v. 2)** Paul reinforces his love and care for them. He was sincere in his desire to help them.

C. **They are Comforted (vs. 3 & 4)** - Paul wanted to comfort them and reassure them that he loved them, and that they were doing well; but that they still had a long way to go. Paul rejoiced because of their progress.

II. Reference to the Lamented Letter (vs. 5 – 7; 2:12 & 13)

A. Paul's care for Corinth was evident while he awaited the report from Titus.

B. Paul was greatly comforted by the good news from Corinth.

1. They had a commitment to do right.
2. They had contrition regarding their condition.
3. They had renewed their confidence in Paul's authority.

III. Their Repentance Because of the Letter (vs. 8 – 12)

A. Paul was not happy that they were sorrowful.

B. Paul was happy that their godly sorrow "worked" repentance.

1. Sorrow is not repentance.

For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears. (Hebrews 12:17)

2. But godly sorrow will accomplish repentance. (2 Samuel 12; Psalm 51)

- a. We are confronted with truth.
- b. We are convicted by God's Holy Spirit.
- c. We are contrite in our attitude toward the truth.
- d. We conform to the truth. (James 1:22 – 25; 2:12)

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:22-25)

"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (James 2:12)

IV. Paul's Rejoicing Because of their Repentance (vs. 13 – 16)

A. The Corinthians had received and refreshed and obeyed Titus.

B. Titus rejoiced and upon reaching Paul, caused him to rejoice.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. (3 John 1:4)