

II Corinthians Chapter 7 Handout #5

Verse 1 is a concluding exhortation concerning the promise of God's ever abiding presence with those who have separated themselves unto holiness as his sons and daughters, those who are Exclusively His. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Perfection means mature or complete. This is a sanctification that is progressively maturing, becoming more and more like Christ as we continually purify ourselves. We are constantly erasing things and people from our lives which pollute us externally and internally. Flesh and spirit refer to the whole person.

v.2-5 - Paul returns to his desire for mutual love. The Corinthians have listened to false accusations but he hoped the Corinthians would defend his integrity. This of course was lacking. Yet, Paul did not blame them, he still loved them and boasted of them, although because of them he was restless until he met with Titus in Macedonia.

v.6,7 - TITUS brings comfort to Paul with his report of how the Corinthians received him and for their "earnest mind toward me, so that I rejoiced the more."

v.8-12 - Here is another reference to "the letter" which caused the Corinthians sorrow but also produced remorse. They had not supported Paul properly on his last visit to them and they were sorry. Paul was sorry the letter hurt them and yet he was not sorry because of the results.

v. 10 "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

This sorrow produced: Carefulness (earnest desire and effort to make amends); Clearing of yourselves (desire to vindicate themselves); Indignation (against Paul's opponent); Fear (alarm at how their passiveness cause such harm); Vehement desire (longing); Zeal (concern); Revenge (ready to see justice done). They had sinned because they failed to do the right thing, but they have proved their repentance.

v. 12 - The letter was written not to discipline the offending brother or to pacify the offended brother. Paul wrote the letter because the well-being of the Corinthians was tied to their acceptance of his message and of him as an apostle.

v.13-16 - Paul was encouraged and blessed by the Corinthians reception of Titus. Titus might very well have been fearful or apprehensive about how they would respond to him given how they had treated Paul, but his fears were groundless, and they refreshed him. Paul had boasted of them to Titus and was now not ashamed. He ends by expressing his confidence in them in all things.