



Lesson 28: *Godly Repentance*

2 Corinthians 7:2-16

7:2 Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. 3 I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. 4 I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

7:5 For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

7:8 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. 12 So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. 13 By all this we are encouraged.

In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. 14 I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. 15 And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. 16 I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

Our passionate longing for you

▲ *We're longing for your affection*

▼ *Release your resentment toward us*

2 Corinthians 7:2 Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. 3 I do not say this to condemn you;

▼ *Renew your relationship with us*

2 Corinthians 7:3 I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you.

▲ *We're lifted by your affirmation*

▼ *We're rejoicing in the return of Titus*

2 Corinthians 7:5 For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,

▼ *We've received the report from Titus*

2 Corinthians 7:6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

▼ *We're rejoicing in the report from Titus*

2 Corinthians 7:4 I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

Our painful letter to you

▲ *My letter to you was hurtful*

▼ *I don't regret it*

2 Corinthians 7:8 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it.

▼ *I did regret it*

2 Corinthians 7:8 Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—

▼ *I don't regret it*

2 Corinthians 7:9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance.

▲ *My letter to you was helpful*

▼ *You really repented*

2 Corinthians 7:9 For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

▼ *You repented radically*

2 Corinthians 7:11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

▲ *My letter to you was hopeful*

▼ *The letter was a provocation*

2 Corinthians 7:12 So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.

▼ *The letter was productive*

2 Corinthians 7:13 By all this we are encouraged.

Our positive lift from you

▲ *You embraced Titus*

▼ *You received him with graciousness*

2 Corinthians 7:14 I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. 15 And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers

▼ *You received him with gravity*

2 Corinthians 7:15 And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling.

▲ *You encouraged Titus*

▼ *He is refreshed*

2 Corinthians 7:13 In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.

▼ *We are rejoicing*

2 Corinthians 7:16 I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

1. Spiritual correction may seem painful and offensive when it comes — but if the message if from God, don't blame the messenger.
2. Spiritual truth and correction are always tests of our devotion to the Lord — be prepared to be tested and to pass with flying colors.
3. Godly sorrow brings true repentance and a desire to make every part and piece correct — leave no stone unturned when repenting.
4. Proper response to God's truth and correction bring joy to everyone involved in the process, including joy to the heart of God.

Paul and the Corinthians

► First visit	50-52 AD the founding visit	Acts 18:1-18
► First letter	52-55 AD the previous letter*	1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (written from Ephesus)
► Second letter	52-55 AD 1 Corinthians*	1 Corinthians 1:1 (written from Ephesus)
► Second visit	52-55 AD the painful visit	2 Corinthians 2:1
► Third letter	52-55 AD the severe letter*	2 Corinthians 7:8 (written from Ephesus)
► Fourth letter	55-56 AD 2 Corinthians**	2 Corinthians 1:1 (written from Macedonia)
► Third visit	57 AD the last visit	2 Corinthians 12:14; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Acts 20:2-3

*written from Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:8) — **written from Macedonia (2 Corinthians 1:16; 2:13; 7:5)

Titus Timeline

(1) **AD49** – Titus is a Greek Gentile, probably converted during Paul’s ministry at Antioch in Syria; Paul refuses to have him circumcised – Acts 15:2; Galatians 2:3.

(2) **AD49** – Titus accompanies Paul and Barnabas from Antioch to the Council at Jerusalem – Acts 15:2; Galatians 2:3 (Titus’ name, strangely, does not appear in the Book of Acts).

(3) **AD55** – (?) Titus is at Ephesus with Paul and Timothy and from there carries Paul’s severe letter to Corinth (4) – 2 Corinthians 7:6-8 – and begins the process of promoting an offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem – 2 Corinthians 8:6 and 12:18.

(5) **AD55** – Titus is expected to come from Corinth to Troas in order to rejoin Paul at Troas, but he does not show up – 2 Corinthians 2:12-13.

(6) **AD55** – Titus leaves Corinth to return to Paul, who has moved from Ephesus, through Troas (where he did not find Titus), and into Macedonia – 2 Corinthians 7:6-15.

(7) **AD56** – Paul writes 2 Corinthians and sends it from Macedonia back to Corinth with Titus – 2 Corinthians 8:6-24 – with the instruction to finish receiving the offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem.

(8) **AD62/63/64** – Titus is on the island of Crete, left there by Paul with the assignment of appointing elders in the churches. Paul has been released from his first Roman imprisonment and plans to send Artemas or Tychicus to Crete, instructing Titus then to join Paul at Nicopolis (9), where Paul plans to winter – Titus 1:5; 3:12.

(10) **AD65** – Titus is present with Paul in Rome during Paul’s second imprisonment, from which Paul sends him to Dalmatia (11) for some ministry duty – 2 Timothy 4:10.

