

## **God of all Comfort**

### **2Corinthians 7:1-7**

Paul continues to exhort the Corinthian believers in their separation from worldliness & a culture contrary to God and His will for their lives, especially the leaders in the Church. He now returns to issue of the person caught in sin, who was sleeping w/ his father's wife, his stepmother (**incest**) and put out of the church until he repented--he did and was brought back. Paul was troubled over the whole incident but now greatly comforted when he heard how it all turned out. Titus came and reported to him what took place.

*1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. 3 I do not speak to condemn you; for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.*

Beloved **agapetos** 'well loved--dearly loved ones' Love is the key in Paul's exhortation to *perfect holiness in the fear of God*. He is tender hearted & encouraging in the things he's telling the church--Remembering these are God's people not Paul's or the pastors-elders-leaders. The *promises* of God are the motivation to Holiness **not** shame, guilt or coercion.

*Cleansing* is dying to and *Perfecting* is living for--negative and positive-*defilement*-filthiness-pollution of *flesh & spirit* – **Prodigals** Lk 15:11-32

*Perfecting* bring to completeness, finishing, hit the goal or mark-darts, miss but keep at it for Lord's sake to perfection in fear of Lord

Paul defends himself uphold his integrity. Respect & honor for leadership greatly contributes to progress toward holiness-when a minister or ministry is belittled & put down it will effect the message of the bible.

*Wronged no one* Paul was sensitive to & looked for little flaws in how he dealt w/ others. His conclusion *he wronged no one* .**self watch**-reckless/ cautious

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To Ephesian church *'we not covet no silver..Acts 20:33*. Always looking out for reputation so as not to stumble anyone.

There will always be those who want *Ps 11:2 to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart* to bring down leadership, cast a shadow of suspicion, create doubt in the integrity so sheep not trust shepherd-backbiting w/ false accusations. Paul assures Corinthian church of his undying love & affection for them. In our hearts to live and die together. Paul was an open book

*4 Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with comfort. I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. 5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.*

Paul rejoices that his critics' accusations didn't stick w/ the majority of the church & were not prejudice against him. - *guilt in the lilly* Paul believes the best in them...*my great confidence in you*

But he had no rest, concerning sin in the camp—incest in church. Paul's affection for them often drove him to despair-distress wondering if they will do the right thing & if his rebuke was received as intended--in love & not in anger or judgmental.

*Comfort of Titus Titus 1:4 my true son in the faith...*just the presence of some has a great effect of comforting & bringing a sense of peace. *Chuck* wrote *3Jn I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.* Plus the good news Titus brought was a joy to Paul's heart

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Greatest satisfaction is to know ministry God has given is effective. The church for the most part mourned over the scandal & its effect on pagans and believers alike & particularly Paul. He'd been so faithful, poured his life out for them but they not so much to him ***Pr 28:23 He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor Than he who flatters with the tongue.***

But now things are turned around and Paul is comforted by Titus, those Christians in Corinth yet Paul looks beyond the natural, Titus & church to the supernatural God who is the God of all comfort.

***2Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are partners in our sufferings, so also you are in our comfort.***

Moses after seeing an Israelite brother mistreated by Egyptian task master—looked to the left and to the right and killed Egyptian and was found out and fled the land. Moses should have looked up to what God wanted. We look all around for comfort in church, world, counselors, people when all the time God is saying look up.

Paul was sorry that he grieved sensitive believers who took to heart his words of exhortation. He would have preferred to make them glad. And yet in spite of all that he rejoiced that his words bore fruit & had a good effect after he realized those in Corinth had sorrowed w/ the result of repentance.