

# Letters to the church in...



# Corinth

**Focus:** 2 Corinthians 7:1-16

## Lesson 24-The Straight Word and Godly Repentance

- **The work of life-cleansing and purification (v.1)**
  - We are called upward to be overcomers in Christ. **We are called** to overcome, through Christ, every sinful tendency, degraded thought or action. We are to **“Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul...” (1 Peter 2:11)**. We need to be **“purified...just as He is pure” (1 John 3:3; 4:17)**.
  - Among the fruit of the Spirit we find **“Temperance” or “self-control”** which the Lord gives back to us (Galatians 5:22,23). None should ever encourage sinful desires or lusts of the flesh.
  - **Daily we need Christ and His Sanctifying Word to accomplish this work of soul cleansing (John 15:4,5; Philippians 4:13; John 17:17; Psalm 119:9,11)** Without Him we can do nothing, but with Him all things can be done!
- **Paul’s struggles and relationship with the Corinthians (v.2-7)**
  - (v.5) **Trouble at Macedonia from inside and outside!**
  - (v.6) **“Nevertheless, God who comforts the down cast...”** The Bible tells us that we can come to God in prayer and He will be our strength and comfort through any situation! **“Casting all your cares upon Him...” (1 Peter 5:7)** **“Come unto me, all of you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest...” (Matthew 11:28-30)**. **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1)**.
  - (v.7) **“...earnest desire” “...in mourning...”—this was true repentance from sin.**
- **The Word, godly sorrow, and Repentance leading to Salvation (v.8-12)**
  - (v.8,9) **These verses express the difficulties of mind for Paul, in sharing the straight truth at times. But now it also shows his joy when the fruit of righteousness was produced from his labors. “...I rejoice...that your sorrow led to repentance...” “...you were made sorry in a godly manner”**
  - **Though it was a bit challenging and difficult for Paul at some times, it was entirely necessary for him to give the straight truth of God’s word (See Isaiah 58:1)**. The truth must faithfully be told! This was the work of John the Baptist too and it was done faithfully, to the saving of many souls! (Matthew 3:2,3; Isaiah 40:3,4).
  - (v.10) **“godly sorrow” vs. “the sorrow of the world [which produces death]” (the sorrow of the world is only sorry for being caught about something, not to truly repent).**
  - **(v.11) quite the effort on their part was mentioned here in getting their lives right with God. They were very sincere. (This is as it should be with us).**

- (v.12)—not just for those immediately involved but for all to know the work of God against such things. And to know the Love and care of Christ and the Apostles towards His church.
- **True repentance involves making our lives right with God and others.** We should “confess and forsake our sins...” (Proverbs 28:13). “Give again that which was...” (Ezekiel 33:15). **The man Zacchaeus gives for us an excellent example as well (Luke 19:8).** **When we confess our sins to God, we should also be as specific about the sins that we know to have committed.** (We should confess and try to make right those specific wrongs. Private sin may be between only you and God. A sin that has openly wronged others should also be confessed and made right with them. Public wrongs may require and public confession and righting of the matter).
- **The Joy of Titus and his glad tidings from Corinth (v.13-16)**
  - The joy and power of good news. It refreshes the soul and brings gladness to our lives. “A merry heart does good like a medicine...” (ref. Proverbs 17:22).
  - There’s nothing better than seeing a precious victory gained after painstaking efforts have been made.

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Would you like to follow sincerely the word of God and to have the purity of Christ in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_**