

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S DESIRE FOR THE CORINTH CHURCH
2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-7

Earlier in this book, in 1:12-13, Paul began to tell the Corinthian believers of his experiences with Titus in Macedonia. In chapter seven he completes the story.

The main subject of this chapter is the need for the Corinthian believers to be reconciled with Paul. The Corinthians had been critical of him and his ministry. In the early chapters of Second Corinthians, Paul told of the trials he went through when he left Ephesus. He had waited for Titus, while concerned about what was happening in Corinth. He now explains how God meet his needs and gave him joy!

Vs. 2– "Receive us..."

Receive is translated from a Greek word that literally means, "***Make room for us in your hearts.***"

Paul reminds them in the verses that follow how that he had faithfully served them!

He assures them that he is writing not to condemn them. They were fruit of his ministry and were not a burden but a blessing!

Vs 2 – "...we have wronged no man..."

"wronged" = "*to be unjust, that is, (actively) do wrong (morally, socially or physically)*"

Paul is saying here, we have not been unjust to anyone or actively wronged anyone! Of course there had been unsubstantiated charges of wrong, corruption, and fraud made against Paul! But, these were charges he denied! Just because someone accuses one of wrong doesn't make it so! Especially if that someone is judging one's motives!

Vs 2– "...we have corrupted no man..."

"corrupted" = the idea is "*to bring one down to ruin.*"

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Paul is saying, "*We haven't injured anyone or spoiled them or ruined them in any way.*" i.e. "*We have not corrupted anyone by false teaching or by any other means.*"

Vs 2– "...we have defrauded no man."

"defrauded" = "*to be covetous, that is, (by implication) to over reach*"

i.e. "*We have taken no man's property, by cunning, by trick, or by deception.*"

Paul didn't come looking for money from them. In fact he had not even secured money to support himself by any means or method of deceit or dishonesty. He lived honestly, above board. Everything Paul did was above board! He practiced what he preached!

Romans 12:17 "*Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*"

(See: 2 Corinthians 11:9; 12:13-18.)

Vs 3– "I speak not this to condemn you..."

Paul was not trying to bring any kind of reproach or condemnation on them! He was simply desiring to be properly received by them!

Vs 3– "...ye are in our hearts to die and live with you."

Paul is saying, if it were the will of God, we would be glad to spend our lives among you, and to die with you: an expression denoting most tender attachment.

It was true that the Corinthians had not shown themselves remarkably worthy of the affections of Paul, nevertheless, he had felt towards them a tender attachment from the very beginning!

(See 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 again.)

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Vs. 4—“Great is my boldness of speech toward you...”

He speaks boldly, he speaks freely; he speaks as a friend; he speaks with the utmost openness and frankness; he conceals nothing from them.

In other words, his speech was the open, undisguised language of a friend, when he throws open his whole soul and conceals nothing!

Vs. 4—“...great is my glorying of you...”

He had great occasion to commend and praise them too, and that he also did freely—even to others!

He had boasted of their liberality in regard to the proposed collection for the poor saints of Jerusalem! (*2 Corinthians 9:1ff*)

He had boasted much of them to Titus, and of their readiness to obey his commands! (*2 Corinthians 7:14*)

Vs. 4—“...I am filled with comfort...”

No doubt by the testimony which he received of Titus of their readiness to obey him!

Vs 4—“...I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.”

Literally "*I overflow with joy.*"

The word translated "*exceeding*" here is a word not found in the classic writers; and is a word which Paul evidently compounded, and means *to superabound over, to superabound greatly or exceedingly* which would be used only when the heart was full, and when it would be difficult to find words to express its conceptions! Paul only uses this word here and:

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Titus in particular had brought some good news of the Corinthian Church to Paul that provided him with this overflowing joy even in the midst of the trying circumstances he was going through! (See verse 5)

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1. “*...our flesh had no rest, ...*”

Paul labored and toiled in the ministry as well as providing for his needs with his tent making business. Paul was always busy!

**2. “*...but we were troubled on every side;*”
(Cf. *2 Corinthians 4:8*)**

Paul was being hit with trouble on every hand it seemed! Lesser men of flesh might have quit, but Paul relied not on his flesh, but on the inner man!

3. “*...without were fightings...*”

The spiritual battles he fought oftentimes looked like flesh and blood battles with those who came against him and desired to do him harm!

4. “*...within were fears.*”

One of which, no doubt, was his fear regarding the Churches and believers, including the Corinthians!

He had sent Titus to Corinth to see the state of the Church there and to witness the effect of his instructions. Titus had not come to him as he had expected, at Troas, (*2 Corinthians 2:12-13*), and he no doubt felt anxiety in regard to Titus' welfare, but also in not knowing the success of his epistle.

Vs 6—“Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down...”

What a wonderful characteristic of our God! He gives consolation to those who are cast down—i.e. anxious and depressed.

All of Paul's consolation was in God!

Vs 6—“(God)...comforted us by the coming of Titus...”

Though Titus didn't arrive on Paul's desired schedule, that comfort was administered by the coming of Titus!

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It is evident here that Paul, not having Titus come to him as he had expected, at Troas, had felt some anxiety on his account, perhaps wondering if he had taken sick or been injured, or that he had died.

We all know what it is like when we are expecting a loved one who is traveling to come and we are on the waiting end and they don't come as we expected they would. When they finally show up it is a comfort!

He regarded and acknowledged God as the Author of the comfort that came with Titus' coming!

2 Corinthians 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Vs 7—“And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you...”

He rejoiced not only in seeing Titus again, but also and especially in the news which he brought respecting the success of his epistle, and the now changed conduct of the Church at Corinth!

Titus was satisfied and delighted with what he found at Corinth. He had been kindly treated, and he had seen all the effect produced by the letter! He had, therefore, been much comforted by his visit to Corinth; and this was a source of additional joy to Paul.

He rejoiced at what Titus had witnessed among the believers of Corinth! Titus imparted the same joy he had to Paul! The joy of one friend will show itself through the heart of another! Joy is that way! When we as believers are happy and joyful, we make others happy and joyful also.

1. **“When he told us your earnest desire...”**
Either to rectify what was amiss, or to see Paul, or both!
2. **“...your mourning...”**
Produced by the epistle.

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Genuine repentance over the sins which had prevailed in the Church.

3. **“...your fervent mind toward me...”**
Or *"your zeal for me."* It denotes that they showed great love of attachment to him, and an earnest desire to comply with his wishes.

Vs 7—“...so that I rejoiced the more.”

Paul not only rejoiced at Titus' coming, but he rejoiced the more at what he told Paul of what he saw at Corinth! Under any circumstances the coming of Titus would have been an occasion of joy! But it was especially so from the account which he gave Paul of the Corinthians!