



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Chapter 7

Bishop Youssef



Introduction

- St. Paul starts chapter 7 by summarizing his pleas to the Corinthians made in the previous chapter
- He calls for spiritual purity, and for "hearts wide open" (1-3)
- Then he returns to a point in chapter two regarding his anxiety when searching for Titus (2:12-13)
- He found him in Macedonia, and the report that Titus has from Corinth comforted St. Paul



Introduction

- Even the manner in which Titus was received by the Corinthians filled St. Paul with joy (4-7)
- The Corinthians received his previous letter with godly sorrow, that led to true repentance
- St. Paul wanted them to know it was only out of care for them he had written it (8-12)
- Thus, the way they had received Titus and St. Paul's letter, rendering quick obedience, gave St. Paul confidence in the Corinthians (13-16)

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- The promises: those named in 2 Cor 6:17,18
- Filthiness of the flesh: All sensual sins, such as those to which the Corinthians were addicted
- The spirit of a man is defiled by such sins as in Gal 5:19-21
- Perfecting holiness: Every Christian should strive for greater holiness by walking in the fear of God
- Make room in your hearts for us and our admonitions (2 Cor 6:11-13)

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- We have wronged no man in the severe charges of his first letter
- We have corrupted no man: Probably this is an answer to the vile insinuations of his adversaries
- I do not accuse you of making these charges against me
- I have said before (2 Cor 6:11,12)
- What follows is an expression of undying affection

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- Verse 4 declares that he is overflowing with joyful feeling
- He first came from Ephesus to Troas (2 Cor 2:12) and expected to meet Titus there with word from Corinth concerning the effect of his first letter
- Not meeting him, he went to Macedonia in distress of mind and flesh with no rest (2 Cor 2:13)
- Outside: conflicts with enemies of Christ
- Inside: fears lest the church suffers loss

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- Titus brought to him the joyful news of repentance and reformation at Corinth
- This news turned his affliction to joy
- He rejoiced to meet a beloved fellow-laborer, but rejoiced more over the news which he brought
- Earnest desire: to cleanse themselves from fault
- Your mourning: over the reproof of their sins
- Your zeal: affection and zeal to please me

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- His first letter made them sorry, and at one time he regretted sending it, because he feared it would not work the result he wished
- But since it had, he did not regret that he sent it especially this sorrow was temporarily
- The sorrow is not repentance but godly sorrow produces repentance
- Godly sorrow is sorrowing in a way pleasing to God, it is the work of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 7:10)

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- What added to his pleasure was, that his writing to them, and the effect it produced, had not been in the least harmful to them
- This sorrow had developed in a way, that they were not hurt in their souls, but profited; nor in their church, they had not lost one member by it
- Even the offender himself, which was the occasion of all this trouble, was recovered and restored by these means

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- The steps are (1) godly sorrow; (2) repentance as a result of godly sorrow; (3) salvation secured by repentance; (4) this effect of repentance is never regretted
- The difference of repentance from sorrow is in the change of mind and heart wrought by godly sorrow for sin
- The state implied by repentance always leads to a change of life

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- The sorrow of the world is just remorse (Judas)
- It has resulted in despair, which has led to destruction of life, or to eternal death
- The proof that they sorrowed in a godly way is that they repented and bore fruits of repentance
- Diligence: no indifference any longer
- Clearing of yourselves: by acknowledging their neglect, praying it might be overlooked, declaring that they did not approve of the sin

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- Indignation: against sin that disgraced the church
- Fear: of God, and of grieving his ministers; and lest the corruption should spread in the church
- Vehement desire: of seeing the apostle; and to be kept from evil, and to honor God
- Zeal: for God and his glory; for restoring the discipline of the church
- Vindication: punishment of but of all disobedience and the offender

The Corinthians' Repentance (7:1-12)



- It appeared plainly that they did not consent to, and approve of his sin
- And though at first they were unconcerned about it, yet having discovered true repentance for their negligence, St. Paul perceived them as if they had not offended
- St. Paul did not write his charge, for the wrong doer only, nor on account of the injured person only, but also to manifest his care for the church



The Joy of Titus (7:13-16)

- He expresses his joy over the happy change in the church, a joy that also refreshed the heart of Titus
- For if I have boasted any thing to Titus of you, your prompt repentance showed that my boasting was true as we speak all things in truth
- Titus had not been received with disobedience, but in a humble and repentant Christian spirit, which had greatly increased his affection
- I am greatly confident concerning you



Conclusion

- In view of the promises in the preceding chapter, what two things does St. Paul admonish us to do?
- What plea does St. Paul repeat that was made in chapter 6?
- What was St. Paul's condition when he first came to Macedonia?
- How did God comfort him in Macedonia?
- What about the Corinthians' sorrow led St. Paul to rejoice?
- What is the difference between "godly sorrow" and "sorrow of the world"?
- Why had St. Paul written to the Corinthians?