

for his spirit was refreshed by them (II Corinthians 7:13).

1. From II Corinthians 7:14,15, For what was Paul boasting about the Corinthian Church? _____

2. What had been restored within Paul concerning the Corinthian believers that gave him cause for rejoicing? (II Corinthians 7:16, p. 122 Study Guide) _____

SEVENTH STUDY

PAUL'S AFFECTION FOR THE CORINTHIANS
THE SEPERATED LIFE CONTINUED (II Corinthians 7:1-10)

Those who separate themselves from the evil of this world and it's thoughts and practices, will always experience the depth and beauty of knowing God in the fullest way. In turn, God promises He will be a Father to us (II Corinthians 6:18).

Paul continues this thought in II Corinthians 7:1: *Having therefore these promises, that God will be our Father, let us cleanse ourselves.*

1. From what are we to cleanse ourselves? (II Corinthians 7:1) _____

2. Does coming out from among unbelievers mean cutting off all contact with the world? _____
No. If this were the case, believers would need to leave the world completely. Instead, Christians are to avoid all actions and attitudes that reflect the sinful world in general.
3. What 3 reasons did Paul give in II Corinthians 7:2, that the Corinthian believers have no choice but to receive him and his fellow laborers?
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
4. Was Paul trying to bring condemnation upon

these Corinthians in verse 2? (II Corinthians 7:2,3) _____

No, Paul went on to say they would remain in his heart till death; and also in life.

5. Who brought to Paul good news and comfort that he needed in the matter of the actions and reactions of the Corinthians to his letter?

II Corinthians 7:4-9) _____

Because of this message in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, the Corinthian believers were brought to godly sorrow and repentance. Paul did not like having to write such rebuke that brought them sorrow; but he was filled with joy over the end results (II Corinthians 7:9).

From II Corinthians 7:9:

Godly sorrow. Sorrow that a person has when he has sinned against God. This kind of sorrow brings mercy and forgiveness. *Godly sorrow worketh repentance.*

Sorrow of the world. Or, "I'm sorry I got caught." Sorry for the consequences. This kind of sorrow brings judgment. *Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap* (Galatians 6:7; ref. Galatians 6:8,9). *The sorrow of the world worketh death* (Could be spiritual or physical death; or both).

PAUL'S CONFIDENCE JOYFULLY RESTORED
(II Corinthians 7:11-16)

Paul's confidence in the Corinthian Church is joyfully restored as he hears how they responded

to each matter covered in this epistle.

The apostle is thrilled as he points out to the Corinthians that they truly exemplify the kind of sorrow for wrong which God can build upon. In every instance they have **approved** (shown) themselves **clear** (innocent) **in this matter.** ¹

Paul's main reason for writing such a letter was that the "earnest care" (cf 11) of the Corinthians--their real feelings for Paul--might come to light **in the sight of God** (12). Their spiritual integrity was at stake, for they had let the troublemakers in the Church cast a cloud of disloyalty and disrespect over their attitude toward their spiritual Father. ¹

As their father in the faith, Paul is so concerned for their spiritual well-being that (1) he does not hesitate to cause them pain, even though he is not less pained, 8-9. (2) Such pain when used of God effects that repentance that leads (a) to salvation and (b) to the correction of the difficulties within the church, 10-12. ¹

When Titus, at Corinth, found that the Church had corrected all that Paul had instructed; Paul was over-joyed that he had not boasted about them to Titus in vain. Otherwise, he would have been embarrassed (II Corinthians 7:14).

Titus also was comforted because the Church had given him cause to put his mind at peace;

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 567.