

Homework #10 - *Good Sorrow Leads to Joyful Surrender*

II Corinthians 7:5-16

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret,
but worldly sorrow brings death." --II Corinthians 7:10

Day One:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 7:5-16. What are the key words in this passage?

Contrasts in Corinthians: What contrasts can you find in this section?

2. Write all the words that describe the battles Paul faced in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 7:5-6):
3. How was Paul comforted (7:6-7)?
4. What was Paul's response, after being comforted (7:7)?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. How does this passage relate to 2 Corinthians 1:3-5?
6. How does this passage complete the story from 2 Corinthians 2:12-13?
7. What can you learn about Paul's life from his open admission of weaknesses?
8. Why do you think God often sends comfort through other people?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Can you relate to Paul's experience, as you described it in question #2? How have you been comforted? Or if your experience is current, can you anticipate God's comfort arriving perhaps through another person?
--How can you be that person for someone else?

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Day Two

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 7:8-10. What does Paul not regret in verse 8?

What did Paul regret?

2. What made Paul happy in verse 9?
3. How long did the Corinthians' pain last (7:8)?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. What do the following passages say and how do they relate to 2 Corinthians 7:8-10?

--Proverbs 27:5-6

--Hebrews 12:11

5. How would you define "repentance"?

What can you learn about repentance from the following scriptures:

--Ezekiel 18:30-31

--Acts 26:20

--2 Peter 3:9

6. Where does repentance lead? (7:10)

Why do you think this "leaves no regret"?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Yesterday we saw how God comforts us in our troubles. Today we learned how God uses pain to change our lives. Are there any painful circumstances in your life right now that you believe God is using for greater good? Explain:

Day Three

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11. What are the two kinds of sorrow?
2. What does godly sorrow bring? (7:10)
3. What does worldly sorrow bring?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Write a definition of "sorrow":
5. From what you have learned so far, what do you think it means to be "sorrowful as God intended"? Why would God allow this in your life?
6. Read Mark 14:32-42. How did Jesus face His greatest sorrow? Where was His focus?

Why is Mark 14:36 also an important prayer for each of us in our sorrow?

7. How is Mark 10:17-23 an example of "worldly sorrow"?

What does Psalm 16:4 say about worldly sorrow?

Read Hebrews 12:16-17. Esau gave away his birthright for a single bowl of soup, because he was hungry. Was Esau sad about his sinful impulsivity or about the consequences of his sin?

How does this story help to describe worldly sorrow?

8. What promise is given in Psalm 126:6 about godly sorrow?
9. Read Isaiah 53:3-6. How does verse 3 describe Jesus, the Messiah?

What did Jesus do for us in verse 6?

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. How does today's lesson about sadness encourage you to want God's best for your life, and trust Him in your sorrows?

Are you experiencing any "worldly sorrow" right now by resisting God's will in your life? How can you move into a godly sorrow and surrender to God's will?

Day Four

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 7:11-13. What words does Paul use to describe their true repentance in verse 11?
2. What was the intended outcome of Paul's painful letter? (7:12)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. How does Jeremiah 31:9 describe the benefits of godly sorrow?
4. Who was the focus of the Corinthians in 7:7 & 11 and how was this expressed?

Why is concern for another an indicator of commitment to the relationship? How does it express God's heart?

5. Read Philippians 2:1-8. Describe the attitude we should have toward one another in Christ:

What do you think it means to "do nothing out of selfish ambition and vain conceit"?

Why was the Corinthians' response an example of their humility?

6. What heart condition is valuable to God, according to Psalms 51:17?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. What have you learned from the Corinthians' response to painful discipline?

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What is the condition of your heart right now: Is it humble and teachable, open to the needs of others, or hard and resistant, self-focused and closed to God's perspective? Explain:

Ask God to give you a humble heart, willing to learn his ways!

Day Five

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:13-16. Write all the joyful words in verse 13 that resulted from the Corinthians' response:

Read Luke 15:10. What is the occasion for joy in heaven?

2. How did Paul describe the Corinthians to Titus, in verse 14?
3. How was Titus received by the Corinthians, in verse 15?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Do you think it is important to tell others what has blessed you about their lives, and what they have done well? Why?
5. Read Proverbs 12:18 & 15:1. How are Paul's encouraging words an example of these verses?
6. Why is Paul glad, in 7:16?

Read Philippians 1:3-6. Why is Paul so confident about others?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. How do your attitudes and words about others shape their lives?

How can Paul's example in this difficult relationship change your approach?

Write a prayer, expressing your confidence in God to do great things in the lives of those you know: