

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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Essential Truth: *Godly sorrow hurts for a time but becomes life-giving when it leads us toward repentance.*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 7:8-9

For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it —though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

Observations:

- Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ had spent 2 years with the Corinthian church teaching them the Word.
- After Paul's departure, false teachers from outside the church began attacking Paul's character to discredit his apostolic authority so they could teach a false gospel within the church.
- Paul had already had a painful encounter with the Corinthian church earlier and was not looking forward to another, fearing it would drive them farther away from him.
- Previously, Paul had admonished regarding unrepentant impurity, immorality and sensuality. Now Paul's second letter had to address the church allowing false teachers within their midst and turning their back on him.
- Paul was greatly troubled to the point he was unable to minister in Troas grieving over the letter he wrote to the church to defend his apostolic authority and after some time Titus was able to share with him the repentant heart of the church after they received Paul's letter.

Application: The church of Corinth was besieged with problems. Paul was broken hearted because he loved them dearly and did not want to grieve them any further with another letter of correction. However, he was more grieved over the church allowing false teachers within their midst and turning away from their loyalty to him and instead believing the lies of the false teachers. The bigger danger within their midst were the wolves they were letting in to devour the sheep with lies and eventually, as sin will do, it would destroy them. Honest correction is never a pleasant experience but with that loving correction comes a repentant heart and restoration can then be restored. The Corinthian church received that correction from Paul, repented of their lack of loyalty to him and their sin against God. They were eagerly awaiting to see him again and restore the broken relationship. Paul was overcome with joy as now the church would be able to experience the blessings that would follow through his ministry to them.

Prayer: *Father God, forgive us for the times we don't practice love, comfort, and encouragement in times of trial. Teach us to listen to one another in all situations and circumstances, so that we can be a unified body of Christ to serve and promote the gospel as a church. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

