

INTRODUCTION

- * In his second epistle to the church of Corinth, Paul has been seeking to encourage the Corinthian believers regarding their position in Christ and the purpose of God as they face afflictions. Through afflictions, we have the opportunity to receive the encouragement of God and, subsequently, to dispense that same encouragement to others who are experiencing afflictions. Afflictions are a means by which we can give testimony to the greatness of our God!
- * Our relationship in Christ should effect how we think about our purpose in this world. We must remember that we are, ultimately, eternal beings and will one day be absent from the body and present with the Lord! Hence, while we live upon the earth, we must see ourselves as ministers of reconciliations and ambassadors of God. As such, we should seek to bring no offense (or stumbling block) to others in their coming to the knowledge of the truth. As God's ambassadors, we must seek to not be unequally yoked, in order that God may direct our path in the ministry to which He has called us.
- * In today's passage, Paul draws the teaching back to his initial teaching regarding how our relationship and position in Christ should totally transform how we view sufferings and sorrows. In the beginning of his epistle (our chapters 1 & 2), Paul discussed the level of tribulation that he and his team had experienced in the province of Asia. Now, he turns the thought to what he experienced when he entered Macedonia and how news from them encouraged. Tied together with Paul's sufferings was the sorrow of the Corinthians. We will discuss each of these subjects again.

INSTRUCTION**I. GODLY S _____ LEADS TO R _____ (7:2-7)****A. Paul's E _____ (v. 2-4)**

1. CONSIDER OUR T _____ (v. 2)
2. CONSIDER OUR M _____ (v. 3)
3. CONSIDER OUR B _____ (v. 4)

B. Paul's E _____ (v. 5-7)

1. R _____ THE PURPOSE OF AFFLICTION (v. 5-7)
2. R _____ IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATION (v. 4b, 7b)

II. GODLY S _____ LEADS TO R _____ (7:8-16)**A. The C _____ of Godly Sorrow (v. 8-10)**

1. THE PATHWAY OF GODLY SORROW
 - a. Repentance (v. 9-10)
 - b. Deliverance (v. 10)
2. THE PATHWAY OF WORLDLY SORROW
 - a. Regret (v. 10)
 - b. Death (v. 10)

B. The E _____ of Godly Sorrow (v. 11-16)

1. IT PRODUCES D _____ (v. 11-12)
2. IT PRODUCES O _____ (v. 13-16)

INTROSPECTION

- * How would you describe the tenor of your life? Are you a joyful person or a mournful person?
- * How do you typically react to the revelation of sin in your life? What type of sorrow is reflected in your life?
- * Do you have sorrow for getting caught ... or, do you have sorrow for transgressing the commands of God?
- * What are you doing with Godly Suffering and Godly Sorrow which you may have experienced?
Will you use it to glorify God?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Read Matthew 21:28-32. Verse 29 includes our word for "regret." What does this passage reveal regarding the connection between a person "regretting" and "repenting"?
- * Read Luke 3:7-20. What does this passage share regarding regret v. repentance ... and godly suffering?