

II Corinthians 6 & 7 – Paul’s Loving Ministry

1. Intro
 - a. Summary of Ch. 1-7 & Paul’s explanation of his ministry: “Triumphant” 1-2 and “glorious” 3 ministry, proved to be “sincere” 4 and based on “faith” in God 5. He now assures them of his “love” for them 6-7.
 - b. Quoting Isa. 49:8 – encouraged straying Corinthians to be reconciled to God “today” 1-2
2. The Hardships of Paul Showed His Love For The Lord & The Corinthians 6:3-13
 - a. Main objective – not to offend anyone or cause anyone to stumble, 3.
 - b. The hardships Paul suffered as a servant of the lord proved his love for the Lord and the Corinthians, 3-10. Greek – “distress” – literally “pressed into a narrow place.”
 - c. Consider the “tools” of Paul’s trade or ministry, 6-7: purity, knowledge, longsuffering and kindness, the Holy Spirit, unfeigned love, truth, the power of God, righteousness.
 - d. Note the paradoxes of Paul’s ministry, 8-10.
3. Paul’s Appeal for Reconciliation 6:11-13
 - a. He lovingly addressed them as a father would speak to his children, 13, I Cor. 4:15.
 - b. Paul was not withholding his love from them but they were withholding their love from him, 12. Paul wanted the Corinthians to judge him fairly.
4. Paul’s Exhortation 6:14-7:1
 - a. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to “not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” (meaning mismatched, fellowship, communion, concord, etc.), 14. Greek – concord – symphony.
 - b. Paul drew five analogies to stress the seriousness of his exhortation and to prove the incompatibility of believer and unbeliever, 14-16.
 - i. Righteousness/Unrighteousness, 14
 - ii. Light/Darkness 14
 - iii. Jesus/Belial 15
 - iv. Belief/Unbelief 15
 - v. God’s temple/temple of idols 16
 - vi. Note: “you” is plural – local church as a whole not to the individual believer only as in I Cor. 6:19-20.
 - c. “Belial” is another name for Satan, 15, Deut. 13:13. It may mean “beliar or the worthless one.”
 - d. Possible interpretations of “be not unequally yoked together”
 - i. Marriage of a believer to an unbeliever, I Cor. 7:12-13
 - ii. A warning forbidding partnership in pagan practices, I Cor. 10:14-22
 - iii. Prohibiting of entering into business with an unbeliever.
 - iv. Solution: “Any relationship, whether in marriage, business or any other occasion, which interferes with one’s duty to God is condemned here and from such all children of God are to remove themselves.” Guy N. Woods
 - e. The basis of Paul’s exhortation was that Christians were the temple of God, 16. Quotes Ex. 29:45 to show that wherever God dwells is the true temple of God.
 - f. Paul concluded to holiness in life by encouraging the Corinthians to cleanse themselves from anything that contaminated body and soul. Holiness was perfected by fearing or respecting the Lord.

- i. Paul references Lev. 26:12, Ezek. 37:26-28, Zech. 8:8, Isa. 52:11, Ez. 20:34, Jer. 32:38, II Sam. 7:14, 7:8.
 - ii. One of the major demands of God in Scripture is holiness, 7:1.
- 5. Paul's Forgiveness 7:2-16
 - a. Paul's meeting with Titus in Macedonia was recalled, 2-7.
 - i. What began in 2:3 was broken off in order to defend the divine nature, integrity, and providence of his ministry (2:14-7:1).
 - ii. Characteristics of Paul's earlier visit to Corinth, 2: wronged, corrupted, defrauded no man.
 - iii. Macedonia – 5 – no rest, troubled on every side, fighting without and fears within.
 - iv. How did God comfort Paul at Macedonia? 6-7: by the coming of Titus (6) & positive responses of the Corinthians (7).
 - b. The Corinthian's response to the "severe letter" is reiterated, 8-16.
 - i. Paul regretted the "pain" caused by the letter. However, he did not regret the response it evoked, 8-9. An example of "tough love?"
 - ii. The "severe letter" led to "godliness" and repentance on the part of the Corinthian church, 10.
 - 1. Godly sorrow leads to repentance which may ultimately lead to salvation.
 - 2. "Worldly sorrow" is merely remorse which ultimately leads to death. Remember Judas and Peter, Mt. 27:1-10, Ac. 1:15-26.
 - iii. Note the fruits of repentance catalogued by the Apostle, 11, Mt. 3:8: complete forgiveness, righteous indignation, holy fear, hungering and thirsting after righteousness (Mt. 5:6), zeal for the work of the Lord, and avenging negative influences.
 - iv. Paul concluded this section by affirming three confidences: 12-16
 - 1. Both Paul and the church have been exonerated of any wrong doing, 12.
 - 2. Titus had been graciously and respectfully received, fulfilling the wishes of Paul, 13-15.
 - 3. The church will continue to strive to do what is right in the sight of God, 16.

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 Post Office Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190
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