

## 2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 15

### Chapter 7:1-12, Let Us Cleanse Ourselves

7 August 2023

**Vs 1** “Having therefore these promises...” These conditional promises are found in chapter 6:

**Conditions:** 6:14, come out from among unbelievers, unrighteousness, and darkness.  
6:15, break all concords with Belial and all infidels.  
6:16, depart from idolatry.  
6:17, separate yourself from all of these things that are false and unclean.

6:14, join yourself with righteousness, and light.  
6:15, agree with Christ and those who believe Him.  
6:16, worship God alone.

**Promises:** 6:17, “**God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**”

6:17-18, “**I will receive you, <sup>18</sup> And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**”

**“...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”**

- If you are carnal and worldly, the idea of putting away sins and striving to be holy is something that is negative and undesirable to you.
- If you love God, you view this statement in a positive sense. You view this cleansing and perfecting as a good thing, knowing that it will result in God’s precious promises (above).

**“...let us cleanse ourselves...”** How you choose to live your life will make a difference in this life.

- If you want to walk with Jesus, you’ll have to walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7). His blood will cleanse you from all sin.
- You cannot enjoy a relationship with Jesus Christ if you choose to live a filthy life.
- Cleansing ourselves has nothing to do with salvation to eternal life. That is entirely the work of Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5).
  - It has to do with enjoying a relationship with our Savior.
    - Read the bible instead of reading carnal books and watching TV.
    - Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:2).
    - Choose to participate in spiritual activities rather than worldly ones.

**“...perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”** Why should a saved person fear God?

- God commands it (Psalm 34:9; 2 Ki. 17:36; Ec. 5:7; Jer. 5:22; Mt. 10:28; Lk 12:5; Rev. 15:4).
- Because you cannot expect to have a good relationship with God while violating His commandments.
- The fear of the Lord brings reward (2 Kings 17:9)
- The fear of the Lord will help you to do right (Exod. 1:17; 1 Ki. 18:3-4).
- God gave us a book describing His love of truth, righteousness, holiness, decency, and cleanliness. He instructs us to be afraid of the consequences of violating His words.

**“...perfecting holiness.”** We need to continually strive for more holiness. Our daily choice of activities can either help or hinder this goal.

**Vs 2** “Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.”

- Be an example of someone who is trustworthy, helpful, and honest. Let your good name cause others to be open to your help and your godly instruction.

### **CHURCH DISCIPLINE (VS 3-10)**

- A man in the church at Corinth was separated from the church because he was a fornicator and an adulterer (See 1 Cor. 5:1-5).
  - His sins were destroying the testimony of the church.
- The apostle Paul sent a letter (1 Cor) condemning this man’s sins.
  - This resulted in the man repenting of his sins so he could be welcomed back into the church.
    - The church also repented for not dealing swiftly with sin in the church (vs 9).
    - They sorrowed unto salvation (vs 10).
      - This is not the eternal salvation of your soul.
      - This is salvation from the sin and iniquity that is wrecking and ruining your life. (1 Cor. 5:5).

**“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance.” (vs 9).**

- The early stages of church discipline is not a happy time. Nobody enjoys embarrassing someone and kicking them out of the church.
  - In the end, when repentance does its work and the sinner gets right, there is reason to rejoice.

**Vs. 11** “...that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you.”

- If you will take the word of God to heart, it will make you care about the things of God and it will make you more careful concerning sins.

**“...yea, what indignation...”** godly sorrow will make you righteously angry against sin.

**“...yea, what fear...”** The fear of God that makes men depart from evil.

**“...yea, what vehement (intense) desire...”** The desire for holiness, cleanliness, pureness.

**“...yea, what zeal.”** (Enthusiasm!)

**“...yea, what revenge!”** You did whatever it took to get rid of your sin (Mt. 5:29-30).

**“...In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”**

- When you see all these traits listed in verse 11, you’ll know the sinner has truly repented and you can welcome them back into the fellowship.
  - There must be evidence of a full and complete abandonment of the sins that got the person in trouble.
  - You will see that they truly love God and hate sin. They’ll stop making excuses.

**Vs 12** “I wrote unto you...that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.”

- Church discipline is not mean. It shows you care for and love the sinner you’re trying to help.
  - If you don’t deal with sin biblically, it will ruin the sinning individual and the church.
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