**SECOND CORINTHIANS SEVEN**

**CHOICES & CHANGES**

**2 Corinthians 7:1** Therefore, having **these promises,**

* ***WHAT PROMISES?*** From CH 6 –
* **2 Cor. 6:17** Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND **BE SEPARATE,** SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." **18** "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."
* Three promises… IF you will stay away from the worldly things…
  + 1 – I will receive you.
  + 2 – I will be a Father to you.
  + 3 – You will become My sons and daughters!

**SO… BECAUSE OF THOSE PROMISES…**

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

* Listen, don’t you send your kids and grandkids to “wash up” before you feed them?
  + I KNOW your kids and grandkids… I know MY kids and grandkids… When we meet for meals at Family Camp we tell the kids to wash their hands before they join the buffet, right?
  + Paul says to wash up so that God will receive us… We don’t wash to save ourselves from our sins – HE DOES THAT… We STAY clean to have fellowship with Him!
  + I enjoy mowing the lawn… I like making straight-neat edges with the Weed-Wacker… I love making the straight lines with the mower… I have a particular pair of boots that I wear for the task. Sometimes Lynette will make me an iced tea and a sandwich while I work out there but she will NOT allow me to come in with those muddy boots on… “Take those nasty things off and then come in and eat.”
  + God wants that from us too… spiritually. Drop the filthiness of the world so that we can sit and fellowship together!
  + For a complete list of behaviors to drop just read the verses in **Galatians 5** RIGHT BEFORE the part about the fruit of the Spirit…

**PAUL'S JOY**

2 Open *your hearts* to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.

* ALL of these things Paul had been falsely accused of… by false teachers who were jealous of him.

3 I do not say *this* to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

* My goodness, how Paul loved the Corinthians… He hesitates to even tell them about his stresses because he does NOT want to burden them…
* SO… He says to check out his record… Ask around if anyone has been taken advantage of… To whom do I owe anything?
* Rather… Paul tells them, I would even die for you before I would harm you.

**SUFFERING WITH A SMILE**

4 Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

* Paul loved people SO much that he was joyful even when suffering. Paul loved to brag to his churches about his other churches…
* Do you find yourself bragging about your kids and grandkids to other parents and grandparents?
  + What motivates you to do this? Hatred? NO! LOVE!
  + Okay… Maybe SOME sinful pride too, but mostly love😊
  + Paul loved the people God called him to minister to.

**GOOD NEWS FROM TITUS**

5 For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside *were* conflicts, inside *were* fears.

* He is talking about the first letter he wrote to the Corinthians… We was second guessing himself as we all do at times… “Oh NO! Was I too harsh? Did I mess up? Should I have said that? **(This is me every Sunday afternoon)**
* SO… He had asked Titus to go to Corinth and see how the Corinthian Church was reacting to the first letter.

**SURVEY SAYS…**

6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, **(discouraged)** comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

* Pastors are the most encouraged when people tell them how they are growing in the Lord… Honestly, we DO enjoy it when YOU enjoy the message, BUT… When someone says, “Wow, that scripture you preached last week really came to life for me… And I am changing the way I manage the problems I have…”
  + I am feeling better about trusting the Lord with this situation!
  + I gotta apologize to this person and do better…
  + I really need to treat my wife and kids differently!
* THAT makes preachers, teachers, Worship Leaders and Elders REJOICE!
  + One of the most encouraging things **YOU ALL DO**, as far as I am concerned… is to tell me how much you enjoy the daily reading program that I “promote.” I am really thankful that you read your bible through every year! Keep it up! Start it up! RESTART it up!
  + NOTHING recharges a worship leader more than when you tell them how their ministry is drawing you closer to God!
  + I love it when someone responds about how good the sound is on Youtube or FB… We always hear from the critics when it isn’t… How GOOD does it sound today? THANK YOU Tech-team!

**PRODUCTIVE SORROW**

8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

* It IS uncomfortable sometimes to offer biblical counsel to others…
* Telling believers to NOT date Unbelievers is hard to do sometimes…

**CHOICES & CHANGES**

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. ***(CHANGES)*** For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

* Have you ever had someone say: “Saying sorry is not enough?”
  + I never have, and I really hate hearing it! 😊
  + WHY? Because making changes is MUCH harder than saying “I’m sorry.”
  + Listen how different “godly sorrow is…”

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

* **NLT** - For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: ***(Changing)*** What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing *of yourselves, what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

* Now the Apostle gets to encourage THEM! “YES!!!” “I see the changes in you” Paul gets to say!
* CCSV – I see the changes in you! It fills my heart with joy to say so too!

**ABOUT THE FIRST LETTER**

12 Therefore, although I wrote to you, *I did* not *do it* for the sake of him who had done the wrong, (Re: The guy who had married his step-mother) nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

* IE, I wrote to let you know how much I love you all!
* Did your parents ever tell you, “This is going to hurt me MORE than it hurts you…”? (Yea, right!)
  + Well, now as parents you get it, right? Btw, that goes away when you become grandparents… 😊

13 Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

**“I’m blessed by you’re being a blessing to Titus!”**

14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true. 15 And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him. 16 Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything.

* "You received Titus and responded to the Word we shared. Good for you, Corinthians," says Paul to this church so dear to his heart.

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.