

There's Something Missing

2 Corinthians 7:1-12

Read 2 Corinthians 7:1-12 together:

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. 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.

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.

- ? What does a taste tester do?
- ? Have you ever tasted a meal and recognized that something was missing?

Context:

- ? Read 2 Corinthians 1:1. Who wrote Corinthians and who was it written to?
- ? How many letters from Paul to the Corinthians are included in the Bible? What clue does that give you about the Corinthians?

Content:

Consider 2 Corinthians 7:1

- ? What is the "let us" command in this verse?
- ? The word "since" at the beginning of the verse requires that we consider the context of the previous section. Read 6:16-18 and discern what these verses tell us about why we should follow the "let us" command in verse 1.

Consider 2 Corinthians 7:2-8

? What do you think the relationship between Paul and the Corinthian church is like based on these verses?

Consider 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

- ? What is the difference between guilt and shame?
- ? What does godly grief produce?
- ? What does godly grief lead to?
- ? What does worldly grief lead to?

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

- ? Look up Mark 1:14, Acts 2:39, and Acts 16:31. What two steps are part of accepting the gospel based on these verses?
- ? How does repentance lead to salvation according to 7:10?

Application:

- ? Read Romans 2:4 in the green box. What leads us to repentance? How does this verse make it easier to approach God with repentance?
- ? If you want to live a life without regret, what spiritual discipline should you practice as part of your daily walk with the Lord?
- ? How is God's way described in Psalm 16:11? What should the Christian life be like if you are following God's will and growing in holiness? Are you experiencing these fruits currently?
- ? What sin do you need to repent of today?