

Be Encouraged

“Comfort In Godly Fear!”

April 29, 2001

Reading: [Hebrews 12:28-29](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 7](#)

Introduction:

1. This chapter has made some say, “Good Grief!”
2. You might think at first like I have, “How can grief be good?”
3. Yet in this chapter it actually turns out that it is.
& [2 Corinthians 7](#)

#1 Joyful in Tribulation!

A. More than an Optimist! [v. 1-7](#)

1. Paul kept his perspective godly.
2. Terrible things happened to Him, but he knew it was not eternal!

B. He knew the source of the comfort

1. It came from God. [v. 6](#)—Titus was the messenger.
2. [James 1:17](#)—E very good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights
3. Has there ever been a time when you were down, but good news came?
4. God is the source of all comfort and goodness.

#2 Joyful in Sorrow!

A. Ever been happy that someone was grieving? [v. 8-12](#)

1. It sounds cruel and it can be.
2. In this case it was a good thing!
3. Paul wanted them to be sorry about the sin they were trying to hide!
4. He didn't want them to be sorry they were caught.
5. He wanted them to be right with the Lord!

B. What Godly sorrow produces: [v. 10-11](#)

1. repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted
2. Diligence, clearing of yourselves, indignation, fear, vehement desire, zeal, vindication!
3. but the sorrow of the world produces death [v. 10](#)
4. It was a good thing that they were mourning! [Matthew 5:4](#)

#3 Joyful in Obedience

A. They passed the test!

1. [2 Corinthians 2:9](#)—For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.
2. Many don't pass that test!

B. Great Joy in seeing obedience!

1. Watching someone obey the gospel! [Acts 8:39](#) the Eunuch rejoiced!
2. How many can we name that we have seen?
3. Seeing someone return to the Lord! [Luke 15](#): Three stories!
4. “There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
5. ‘It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’

Conclusion:

1. It's a **good** grief when someone sorrows over sins to the point of repentance!
2. We may not feel good that we sin.
3. God doesn't feel good when we sin.
4. That's why He sent Jesus:
 - a. To get rid of our sins!
 - b. So we can come back to Him!
5. Will you do that?
 - a. Will be like the Ethiopian Eunuch who was baptized into Christ?
 - b. Will you be like the Lost Son who came home?