

Joyful Life Bible Studies

II CORINTHIANS 7:1-16

Lesson 13

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Last week's lesson on II Corinthians 6:1-18 included several practical elements of the Christian life: the grace of God (verses 1,2), conduct for ministry (verses 3-10), and separation in the life of the believer (verses 14-18). Which of these do you feel profited you the most?
 - a. Share why.

2. Isn't it a joy to become better acquainted with godly role models from the Bible? Learning more about the Apostle Paul through II Corinthians is an added benefit of our study this year. Chapter Seven gives us further insight into this devoted servant of Christ. Our lesson this week also provides us with essential instruction for our daily lives as Christians. Read II Corinthians 7:1-16 and record the verse or phrase that particularly captures your attention today.
 - a. Notice Paul's expressions of *joy* and *rejoicing* in verses 4-16. What do you see?

3. Prayerful study and application of God's Word cannot be overemphasized. Take a few moments now to express to the Lord your desire and need concerning your lesson this week. Write your prayer here using the verse below as a guide.

*When ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us,
ye received it not as the word of men,
but as it is in truth, the Word of God,
which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

I Thessalonians 2:13b

SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 7:1-4

1. The instruction in II Corinthians 7:1 is for all believers. The first phrase of this verse links it to God's glorious promises recorded in II Corinthians 6:17b,18. *Having these promises, what are we to do?*
 - a. How would you explain the difference between sins *of the flesh* and sins *of the spirit*?
 - b. In practical terms how can we *cleanse ourselves*?
 - c. Read I Peter 1:15,16 and I John 3:(2)3. How do these verses help you understand the phrase: *perfecting holiness in the fear of God*?
2. In defense of false accusations Paul once again appealed to the Corinthian believers. His request in II Corinthians 7:2, *receive us* could be translated *open your hearts to us*. Consider Paul's personal integrity in ministry by writing his declarations from this verse.
 - a. Why is integrity important in personal life and in ministry?
3. Think about the recipients of this letter as you read II Corinthians 7:2-4 Phillips: *I don't say this to condemn your attitude, but simply because, as I said before, whether we live or die you live in our hearts. To your face I talk to you with utter frankness; behind your back I talk about you with deepest pride. Whatever troubles I have gone through, the thought of you has filled me with comfort and deep happiness. What message should this have communicated to these believers?*
 - a. It has been said love can be measured by sacrifice and inconvenience. How does this speak to you?
4. Complete your lesson today by considering II Corinthians 7:4b NIV: *in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds*. What can you learn from Paul that would enable you to say this?

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 7:5-7

1. Titus had delivered Paul's first letter to Corinth. Paul was waiting for a report from him about their reaction to his letter. We learned from II Corinthians 2:13 that Paul was distressed because he could not find Titus. Use II Corinthians 7:5 to describe the situation when Paul arrived in Macedonia.

2. Read II Corinthians 7:6,7. What do you learn about God from verse 6a?
 - a. Read verse 6a from the Amplified Bible: *But God, Who comforts and encourages and refreshes and cheers the depressed and the sinking.* Link this with II Corinthians 1:3b,4. Share how the truths in these verses minister to you.

 - b. In what two ways did God comfort Paul? Answer from verses 6b,7.
 - (1.) Briefly share a time when God used a sister or brother in Christ to comfort you.

 - (2.) How can you be a source of comfort and joy to others?

3. Observe II Corinthians 7:7 NLT: *His (Titus) presence was a joy, but so was the news he brought of the encouragement he received from you. When he told me how much you were looking forward to my visit, and how sorry you were about what had happened, and how loyal your love is for me, I was filled with joy!* Why would this news have caused Paul to be *filled with joy*?

*Expect God to comfort you.
Look for His consolation
through His Spirit, His Word, His servant.
-selected*

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 7:8-12

1. In today's study we find one of the most enlightening passages in the New Testament on the important subject of repentance. These verses also give us another glimpse of Paul's compassionate heart. Read II Corinthians 7:8,9. (In verse 8 the word *repent* denotes *regret*.) How did Paul feel about sending his first letter?
 - a. Why did his attitude change?

2. Consider II Corinthians 7:9 NKJV: *Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.* Use a dictionary to define *repent/repentance*.

3. Use II Corinthians 7:10 to contrast *godly sorrow* with *worldly sorrow*.
 - a. What is the difference between genuine repentance and mere regret?

4. From II Corinthians 7:11 list the practical results of the Corinthians' *godly sorrow* (repentance) and give a brief explanation for each. Use other versions for a clearer understanding.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

 - d.

 - e.

 - f.

 - g.

 - h. How does this demonstrate the necessity of behavioral changes as proof of repentance?

5. Bible scholars are not certain of the identity of those Paul mentioned in II Corinthians 7:12a. Verse 12b reveals the underlying motivation for Paul's letter. What was it?
 - a. What does this reveal about Paul's heart?

FIFTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 7:13-16

1. In II Corinthians 7:13-16 we discover additional reasons for Paul's joy. From verses 13-16 record one or two things you learn about:
 - a. Paul and his companions
 - b. Titus
 - c. the Corinthians
 - d. What especially impressed you?
2. Concentrate on the word *refreshed* in II Corinthians 7:13. Define the word *refresh*.
 - a. With this in mind share a way you can refresh another believer.
3. In what way did Paul conclude his appreciation for the believers in Corinth? II Corinthians 7:16
4. Think about Paul's kind words of encouragement to these Christians. How is he an example for you?

*For we have great joy and consolation in your love,
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you . . .*
Philemon 7 NKJV

SIXTH DAY: Review II Corinthians 7:1-16

1. Write a thought, insight or brief comment about the following subjects that were covered in our study of II Corinthians 7:1-16:
 - a. holiness (verse 1)
 - b. integrity (verse 2)
 - c. love (verses 3,4)
 - d. comfort (verses 6,7)
 - e. repentance (verses 8-11)
 - f. refreshing others (verses 13-16)
2. Why is repentance necessary throughout a believer's life?
3. Based on II Corinthians 7:1-16 in what way are the Christians in Corinth a positive role model for us?
4. What did you learn about Paul through this lesson that has benefited you?

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.*
Psalm 51:10