

BELIEVERS SHOULD BE
JOYFUL OVER RESTORED
RELATIONSHIPS AND
REPENTANT IN THEIR
GODLY GRIEF OVER SIN

2 CORINTHIANS 7

MEMORIAL DAY

- Our observance of Memorial Day dates back to 1868, when General John Logan named May 30th as a special day to honor the graves of the Union soldiers.
- Many believe the day was selected because it was “The Day of Ashes” in France (the day Napoleon’s remains were returned to France from St. Helena).
- Memorial Day was later changed from May 30 to the last Monday in May.

MEMORIALS

- Genesis 28 - Jacob is traveling to Haran, where he worked for Laban and marry Leah and Rachel.
- He has a dream in which he sees angels ascending and descending from heaven. God speaks to him.
- God repeats the promises he made to Abraham.
- The next morning Jacob sets up a stone as a pillar, pours oil on it, and names the place, Bethel.

MEMORIALS

- Genesis 31 - Jacob returned to his homeland with his family, and his Uncle Laban chased after him.
- They make a covenant between them because they do not trust each other.
- They put together a heap of stones as a memorial to them both that God is a witness to their covenant.
- It is reminder of their promises and a reminder that God would judge them if they broke it.

MEMORIALS

- Joshua 4-5 - Joshua put up a memorial after they crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.
- It was a miracle, and he wanted future generations to know about the miracle.
- This pile of 12 stones was intended to pique the curiosity of children in future generations so they would ask their parents about what happened there.

TRADITIONS

- Exodus 7-12 - The Passover feast was a memorial to what God did in protecting the Israelites from the angel of death (destroyer).
- Deuteronomy 6 - The Shema is a reminder to pass down the law and the teachings in the Old Testament from one generation to the next.
- Matthew 26 - Jesus has His disciples prepare the Passover meal. Last Supper becomes communion.

INTRODUCTION

- In chapter seven, Paul revisits the “severe letter” he wrote to the Corinthians and tells us how they received it.
- Paul also explores the biblical pattern for repentance, the clear marks of true godly grief, and how this model is different from the world’s version of sorrow.
- Paul also includes interesting details about Titus’ visit to Corinth.

**JOY IN A RESTORED
RELATIONSHIP SHOULD
ECLIPSE DIFFICULT
CIRCUMSTANCES**

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-7

RECONCILIATION

- Paul renews his appeal for reconciliation and presents three arguments for his integrity:
 - we have wronged no one - the opposite is true; Paul was the one wronged, as we will see later.
 - we have corrupted no one - neither his words nor actions corrupted or fostered immoral behavior.
 - we have exploited no one - Paul has not used his influence for selfish gain.

RECONCILIATION

- While Paul's argument here is confident and strong, he does not want his hearers to receive it as an attack on their integrity.
- In the culture at that time, the phrase "to die together and to live together" was a clear affirmation of mutual friendship, loyalty, and unbreakable unity.
- Paul, while standing up for his own integrity, is communicating that he is on the side of the Corinthians and desires their best.

COMFORTED

- After renewing his appeal for their affection, Paul says that he is “overflowing with joy” (verse 4).
- One might consider this an unexpected response given his grim depiction of his time in Macedonia, which was filled with affliction from all sides.
- Paul was comforted in two ways: (1) Titus was safe and had made it to Macedonia and (2) carrying good news about the state of the Corinthians.

COMFORTED

- The Corinthians have mourned over their sin, longed once again for Paul and his leadership, and are filled with zeal for their restored relationship.
- Now that his apostleship is finally accepted and legitimized in Corinth, this restored relationship ensures that the Gospel can keep going forward.
- A mended relationship with the Corinthians matters more to him than current success in ministry or even physical well-being.

**GODLY GRIEF LEADS TO
TRUE REPENTANCE,
EVIDENCED BY CLEAR
CHANGE IN A
BELIEVER'S LIFE**

2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-16

GODLY GRIEF

- Paul uncovers the tool God used to bring the Corinthians to repentance: a previous letter written by Paul (verse 8) - “the severe letter.”
- While we may not know the letter’s contents verbatim, we know that it was painful and corrective.
- Paul mentions various times, and we know that it achieved its goal.

GODLY GRIEF

- The Corinthians were grieved by the letter, but grieved in a good way—a type of grief that led to true repentance and restoration (verse 9).
- Godly grief, according to Paul, “leads to salvation.”
- That means it changes a person’s heart, secures spiritual vitality in the present, secures eternal life in the future, and leaves no trace of regret.

GODLY GRIEF

- Paul contrasts “godly grief” with “worldly grief,” which produces death (verse 10).
- This worldly grief is sorrow over the circumstance instead of sin.
- Any sorrow endured in a worldly way does not lead to life or salvation, but leads instead to deadly effects like resentment or bitterness.

COMFORT AND REJOICING

- In the subsequent verses, Paul expounds on the noticeable effects this repentance achieved in the hearts and actions of the Corinthians.
- Paul verifies their repentance in seven ways:
- what earnestness – the church has turned from indifference and become purposefully serious about how they live.

COMFORT AND REJOICING

- what eagerness to clear yourselves – suggests that while the Corinthians had once been apathetic toward slandering Paul, they now have enthusiasm to prove their loyalty to the apostle.
- what indignation – refers to their outrage against the offender who had scandalously denigrated Paul.
- what fear – signifies their alarm over their behavior and God's judgment over that behavior.

COMFORT AND REJOICING

- what longing – refers to their fresh affection for Paul.
- what zeal – indicates their passion to honor Paul and rectify the situation.
- what punishment – refers to their willingness to see proper justice carried out against Paul's offender.
- The Corinthians restoring their relationship with Paul is done "in the sight of God" (verse 12).

COMFORT AND REJOICING

- This means that they were ultimately accountable to God, not Paul, for their actions.
- For Paul, this ordeal is not about being personally vindicated.
- Instead, it's about the Corinthians being in right standing before God Himself.

COMFORT AND REJOICING

- Paul finishes this section by affirming Titus' affection and happiness for the Corinthians (verses 13–16).
- Upon reading the severe letter, the Corinthians received Titus “with fear and trembling,” suggesting that they finally had respect for the apostle and Titus.
- Paul rejoices about their treatment of Titus and reaffirms his confidence in the repentant Corinthians.

**WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE RICH YOUNG
RULER?**

RICH YOUNG RULER



RICH YOUNG RULER

- He came not to tempt Christ, but to learn from him.
- That means he probably was not a Pharisee.
- We know he was not a Sadducee because he believed in eternal life and wanted to attain it.
- That also tells us he was seeking - something a bit unusual for someone in his position of authority.

RICH YOUNG RULER

- Jesus tells them that it is “easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”
- Gate in the wall was known as the “Eye of a Needle” that could not be entered with a loaded camel.
- The Greek word *kamelos* could be actually *kamilos* that means rope. Either way, you can't get a camel or a rope through the eye of a needle.

RICH YOUNG RULER

- The response from Jesus was a shock not only to the rich, young ruler but to the disciples.
- Jews at this time believed that wealth and prosperity were a sign of God's blessing.
- The Old Testament was full of godly men who were wealthy: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, and David.
- That is why the disciples asked Jesus about wealth and salvation.

RICH YOUNG RULER

- Paul also addresses the problem with wealth and Christian conversion.
- In 2 Timothy 4:10, he writes, “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world.”
- Notice the reaction of the rich, young ruler. It says, “At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, because he had great wealth” (Mark 10:17-22).

RICH YOUNG RULER

- Could he have later changed his mind? There are certainly two possible times:
- Pentecost - there were 3,000 who were saved on the day of Pentecost after Peter preached in Jerusalem.
- Destruction of Jerusalem - when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem (AD 68-70), he would have lost all of his wealth and might even have been killed or sold into slavery.