



2 Cor 7—Paul’s Joy

July 14

OVERVIEW: [2 Corinthians](#)

CONTEXT: Paul has been working through the encouragements from his ministry, encouragements that are now being confirmed in the Corinthians through their repentance and obedience. Our passage today concludes the first portion of the letter. In it Paul rejoices in the perseverance of their faith in light of his rather difficult ministry in their midst.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (2 Cor 5:11–21)

- What are some secular sayings from the Bible?
- What notable verses have you come across in 2 Cor?
- How is the context of this passage helpful in understanding some of its better known phrases?
- Describe the New Covenant Ministry:
 - In Motivation:
 - In Content:
 - In Call:

READ: 2 Cor 7:2–16

Probable Sequence of Events Re: Paul & Corinth

Paul plants church (Acts 18) during 2 nd missionary journey	False teachers wreak havoc, Paul writes a now lost letter (1 Cor 5:9)	This letter is followed up by 1 Cor, written in Ephesus during 3 rd missionary journey	Paul then makes a sorrowful visit to Corinth (2 Cor 2:1)
Writes a severe letter (2 Cor 7:8) by the hand of Titus	Titus brings good news	Paul writes 2 Cor from Macedonia	Paul writes Romans from Corinth

QUESTIONS:

Intro

1. Paul picks up where he had left off in 6:11.
2. v. 2- Paul says, “welcome us, we’ve done no one wrong, we’ve only loved you.” **Given the past history with the Corinthians (see chart), what is Paul asking?**
3. Is there someone who needs to make room for you (or perhaps you to them)?
4. Vv. 3–4- Though condemnatory of the false teachers, what did Paul feel toward the Corinthians, especially as they’ve turned back to Paul? Have you ever felt this way toward a believer?

Background

5. **V. 5- Paul was coming closer to them, awaiting news from Titus (see 2:13).**
6. **V. 5b- What do you think is meant by “fight without and have fear within”?** (*General persecutions, anxiety over the Corinthians?*). What Psalms do these remind you of?
7. Vv. 6–7- What brought comfort and joy to Paul in the midst of this? Has the Lord ever minister to you in this way?
8. **Have you ever sent a letter that needed to be sent but that you didn’t want to send? How might this help us understand v. 8?**

Result

9. Vv. 9- Why did the Corinthians only grieve for a time in receiving Paul’s letter?
10. **V. 10- How does the world almost always view grief? What two sorts of grief does Paul identify? Why is one good and the other bad, and how so? (Of the good effect, see v. 11).¹**
11. Vv. 14–16- How is the Corinthians’ faith proven (v. 10 and 15) as genuine (i.e. truly a work of the Spirit)? **How do we ascertain true faith in followers of Jesus still today?**

NEXT TIME: July 21, 2 Cor 12:1–10, Thorn in the Flesh

¹ Grief of losing God or the world’s approval and seeking to obtain it. In seeking God’s approval through Christ it brings eternal life. Seeking the world’s approval brings death, or judgement.