

Hello. /We will begin the 19th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /The message is from chapter 7. /The title of chapter 7 is “Repentance.” /The chapter consists of six main points.

/First, verse 1. Holiness. /Second, verses 1-4. Receiving workers. /Third, verses 5-7, Comfort. /Fourth, verses 8-10. Grief. /Fifth, verses 11-12. The effects of grieving. /Sixth, verses 13-16. Joy.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /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.

/Verse 1 is very important. /It says, “Bringing holiness to completion.” /What must we do to bring holiness to completion? /Verse 1 tells us three very important things.

/First, we need to know that we are people of God’s covenant. /It says in the verse, “Since we have these promises.” /Second, it says, “In the fear of God.” /In other words, we must fear God.

/And third, we need to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit. /Specifically, it is very important that we know we are people of God’s covenant. /We already saw this in chapter 6.

/6:16 and 6:18 talk about this. /6:16 says, “I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” /6:18 says, “I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me.”

/It is extremely important that we know that we are people of God’s covenant. God is our father, and we are his children. /God is holy. /Therefore, we must bring holiness to completion.

/Next, as our second point, we need to fear God. /We become holy when we serve God in fear and trembling. /Furthermore, believing that God is alive is to fear him.

/As our third point, we need to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit. /In other words, this is the complete holiness of our character.

/And we must depart from every defilement of body and spirit. 6:15 tells us to leave Belial, idols, and the things of darkness. /Second, receiving workers. /Verses 2-4.

/Verses 2-4. /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.

/Some people of the church of Corinth entered the church and boasted in themselves while slandering Paul. /They influenced the believers in Corinth to respect Paul to a lesser degree. /For this reason, Paul defends himself by saying he has wronged no one, corrupted no one, and taken advantage of no one.

/God's blessing is upon the person who sincerely receives pastors. /The reason is God's work of salvation happens through pastors, and the word of life is proclaimed through pastors.

/Therefore, whoever receives God's servants in their heart will receive God's blessings that are given through these pastors. /But if the pastor teaches the Bible in the wrong way or teaches humanism, the spirits of believers cannot live.

/In this case, it is better for us to leave that pastor. /Paul and the believers in Corinth loved each other in the past. /7:4 says, "I am acting with great boldness toward you."

/Paul, deep in his heart, loved the believers in Corinth and had complete confidence in them. /That is why he had boldly boasted in the believers of Corinth. /Not only did Paul do this, but he also says he is afflicted for the comfort and salvation of the believers in Corinth.

/Even in affliction, Paul was comforted and filled with joy because of the believers in Corinth.

/Third, comfort. Verses 5-7.

/Verse 5 says, "For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within." /Why did Paul's body have no rest? /We learned about this in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13.

/Paul travelled from Troas to Macedonia because Titus, who was dispatched to the church at Corinth, did not come. /Because Titus was late to come, Paul was grieved.

/Knowing that the problems in the church of Corinth were not resolved and that this had caused Titus to be late, Paul's spirit was not at ease. /He grieved that the work of God that was happening through the Corinthian church would fail.

/Paul also became afraid. /He was afflicted because he was fighting the good fight as forces from the outside slandered him and fought against him. /However, in verse 6, Titus returns to Paul.

/Paul, by doing the Lord's work, suffered affliction and pain, and he was despised. /However, God comforts the one who sits before the Lord and trusts in him and cries out to him. /Titus brought good news about the church of Corinth.

/Hearing this, Paul is greatly comforted. /Paul is greatly comforted for three reasons.

/First, he is comforted because he has met with his partner, Titus. /Second, the Corinthian church, hearing Paul's commands, obeyed and stood upright in the faith. /Third, the believers in Corinth actively received Titus, and they had zeal for Paul.

/Hearing this news, Paul was greatly comforted. /Verses 8-10 are about grief. /There are two kinds of grief in the text. /7:10 says there is godly grief and worldly grief.

/Worldly grief is typically concern about clothing, food, and shelter. /It is grief about one's life. /Luke 21:34 says our hearts should not be weighed down by the cares of this life. /Worrying about what to eat, drink, and wear is worldly grief.

/1 John 2:16-17 reads, "For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life /—is not from the Father but is from the world. /And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

/Then what is godly grief? /By looking at the Corinthian church, we can sum it up in four ways. First, there is momentary grief when someone is rebuked.

/Paul sent the letter of 1 Corinthians as a strict letter of rebuke. /The believers in Corinth were momentarily grieved when they were rebuked. /Second, godly grief is grief over our wrongdoing.

/Third, it is the grief of failing to be upright even when we try to do right. /Fourth, it is the grief of trying to do well in believing. /2 Corinthians 5:2-4 talks about the believer's groaning. /Why does the believer groan?

/The believer groans because he longs to put on the heavenly dwelling. /It means to make a strong effort to become like the image of Christ. /The believer grieves and groans because he makes an effort to become more like the Lord, but it does not go well.

/However, a day will ultimately come when godly grief will see the day of salvation. /God in his power holds onto this believer, and he gives him salvation.

/We grieve when we fail to do what we should do before God, and this is godly grief. /For example, we grieve when we cannot attend early morning services. /The believer grieves when he cannot use his conscience.

/We also grieve when we cannot manage our duties to God. /Such grief is godly grief. /God will help us if we grieve in this way.

/It is a problem for believers to have no godly grief. /What kind of grief did Paul have? /Every day, he grieved thinking about the church. /Paul grieved because he longed for believers to stand upright.

/He also grieved for the work of preaching the gospel. /Thus, God was with Paul, and he fulfilled these works. /But when we have worldly grief, it becomes easier for us to get caught in the devil's snares and be dragged around. /Today, the devil tries to carry us away in our greed and make us perish. /Verses 11-12 are about the effects of grieving.

/Verses 11-12. /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.

/Because the Corinthian believers had godly grief, they were able to stand upright in faith. /Verse 11 talks about seven things. /It says, "For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you." /This means the believers in Corinth, rebuked by Paul, accepted it and grieved and repented.

/Second, it says "What eagerness to clear yourselves." /This means the believers in Corinth cleared themselves before Titus and Paul. /The verse continues to say, "What indignation." This means they were angry about sin.

/Next, the verse says, "What fear." This refers to the fear of God's judgment. /Fifth, "What zeal." This is the zeal of abandoning sin and standing upright before God.

/Next, the verse says, "What punishment!" /Sixth, they punished sin in their hearts. /And seventh, it says, "At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter." /This means they repented, abandoned sin, and lived as innocent people.

/Paul's solemn letter of rebuke gave the believers in Corinth grief. /They who were rebuked had godly grief, which brought about these effects. /It is a blessing for us to repent.

/When we are rebuked, we must identify it as God speaking to us, and we need to repent and stand upright. /Then will God rejoice and bless us. /Previously, Paul rebuked the church of Corinth for tolerating the unrighteous person. /1 Corinthians 5:1-2.

/Paul did not rebuke them for the sake of the unrighteous person. /He did it so that the entire church would stand upright.

/Sixth, verses 13-16. Joy.

/Verses 13-14. /Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true.

/Paul was comforted when he heard that the church of Corinth had stood upright. /Before, Titus grieved for the Corinthian church, but now, they repented, stood upright, and earnestly longed for Paul and Titus. Seeing this, Titus returned with relief and great joy.

/Paul, seeing Titus rejoice, was even more joyful. /Before Titus visited the church at Corinth, Paul boasted to Titus about the church. /That is why verse 14 says, "For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame."

/Paul boasted to Titus, but if the believers in Corinth were disobedient when Titus visited, Paul would have been put to shame.

/However, Titus saw the believers earnestly repent and long for Paul. He learned that Paul's boasts were true. /Believers must stand upright in their faith if they do not want to put their pastor's boast to shame.

/Verse 15. /And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

/When Titus visited the church of Corinth, the believers there received God's servant Titus with fear and trembling, and they were obedient. /They didn't act like this because Titus was well known or outstanding. /Their behavior shows us that by receiving Titus, they received Paul. It is proof that they obeyed Paul's words.

/Because the Corinthian church received God's servant with love, Titus' love for the church grew. /Consequently, Titus loved them more and longed for them deep in his heart.

/Verse 16. /I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

/Paul had confidence because the believers in Corinth, who were rebuked by Paul, accepted Paul's words and repented, and they received Titus, whom Paul had sent. /Prior to this, Paul grieved and was weak, but now that they stand upright, Paul rejoices and has confidence.

/The title of chapter 8 is "Grace." /It is made up of four main points. /First, the grace of generosity. Verses 1-9. /Second, verses 10-15. Encouragement to give generously. /Third, verses 16-22. Properly delivering these generous gifts. /Fourth, verses 23-24. Introducing Titus and his partners.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

/2 Corinthians 8 and 9 explain generosity in detail. /The church of Macedonia, which had received much grace, worked hard to give generously. /Paul wants the church of Corinth to know about this grace as well.

/The church of Macedonia did a good job believing even in affliction and extreme poverty. /The believers, suffering extreme poverty, gave generously. /God gave the church of Macedonia great grace.

/Verses 3-5. /For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

/The church of Macedonia set a good example of giving generously. /Verse 3 says, “For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own accord.” / “According to their means” means the believers gave an appropriate amount of their possessions for God.

/When we Christians give generously, we must make the effort to give. /To do so is to be faithful to God. /If we do not do this, we are not giving our utmost but are being unfaithful to God.

/The believers in Macedonia, when they gave generously, gave in five exemplary ways. / First, they did not give according to their means, but beyond their means. /Second, they volunteered to give. /They were not forced or pressured by others to do so.

/Third, they gave with an earnest longing to take part in the relief of believers. /To give is to participate in the work of God, and it is taking part in the relief of believers. /Fourth, they gave themselves when they gave generously.

/It is important that the believer first offer himself to the Lord before giving money. /God desires for us to give ourselves more than he wants material things. /2 Corinthians 12:4. /Fifth, by the will of God, they gave to Paul.

/Through Paul, the work of God was fulfilled. /That is why verse 6 says, “Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.”

/Not too long ago, Paul sent Titus to the church of Corinth and began the work of collecting. /Paul is saying he urged Titus to complete what he started. /Verse 6 says, “So he should complete among you this act of grace. /This “grace” refers to the collection of generous giving.

/Our giving generously proves that we have understood the grace of God. /We must receive the grace of God and have a heart of thanks if we want a heart that gives

generously. /When the believer receives grace and is thankful, he first gives himself to God.

/Next, the believer develops a heart that wants to live for the Lord. /Naturally, the believer develops a heart that wants to give material things for the Lord. /Giving generously is the fruit of grace.

/If we give forth the grace we receive from God, we will be blessed in greater ways. /Our souls mature, and we bear the fruits of faith. /Giving generously is also a beautiful and fragrant sacrifice to God. /Philippians 4:18.

/Verses 7-9. /But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

/Although the church of Corinth excelled in various forms of grace, Paul encourages the church to excel in giving generously. /However, in verse 8, Paul does not command them to give.

/Paul first gives them the example of the believers in Macedonia, who gave with earnest hearts. /By this, Paul wants to verify the love and genuineness of the believers in Corinth. /Looking at their giving, Paul could figure out if they truly loved God, if they had the truth.

/If a believer is genuine and has true love, he cannot help but give to God and offer aid. /Jesus, though he is God who is rich, laid down his glory and became a lowly servant.

/Eventually, he died on the cross for us. /Consequently, we received redemption, righteousness, and life, /and we are able to share in all spiritual blessing.

/If we have faith and love, then we follow the example of Jesus. /True love isn't selfish, but it is sacrifice.

/Second, encouragement to give generously. /Verses 10-15.

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/Verse 10 tells us that the church of Corinth began the work of giving and desired to do it before the church of Macedonia did. /Because the church of Corinth started before the church of Macedonia, Paul wants them to do better than the church of Macedonia at this work of giving.

/Verse 11 says, “So that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.” /It is God's will that they give what they have at the current

state. /It is wrong to say we'll give if we earn more money or when we have money to spare.

/We need to give generously with what we currently have. /Whoever has the will to give aid or money will do so with what he has. /We do not need to give beyond what we don't have.

/Jesus complimented the widow for offering to God her two coins. /Paul tells the believers in Corinth to make it normal to give for the believers in Jerusalem. /We find this in verse 13.

/The believers in Corinth, who have in abundance, are to give to the believers in Jerusalem, who are in need. /This way, when the believers in Jerusalem have abundantly, they will help the believers in Corinth when they are in need. This makes them equal.

/It is similar to the rich people in the Jerusalem church helping out the poor. /Acts 2:44. /Believers should help each other when someone else is having a hard time.

/Verse 15. /As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

/Verse 15 quotes Exodus 6:18. /When the Israelites gathered manna in the wilderness, those who gathered much had nothing left over, and those who gathered little had no lack. /In this world, those who have a small income eat three times a day, and those who have a high income also eat three times a day. /In the end, the rich and the poor are the same.

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/Therefore, we must use the things God has given us according to the will of God. Blessed is the person who gives to God to help God's work.

/This concludes the 19th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.