

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 14, 2010

“Comfort and Joy for a Caring Heart”
2 Corinthians 7:2-4

The focus of Paul’s remarks to the repentant within the church of Corinth in 2 Corinthians 7:2-9:15 is one of admonishment as he implores them to fulfill certain specific Christian responsibilities.

Paul’s first admonishment to the repentant in Corinth along with its accompanying commentary is found in 2 Corinthians 7:2-16.

In 2 Corinthians 7:2-3 we find Paul’s command to the repentant in Corinth to make room for him and his associates in their hearts.

Paul’s command to the repentant in 2 Corinthians 7:2 “to make room” and to the repentant in 2 Corinthians 6:13 “to open wide” are parallel commands, because both were intended to result in a separation from unbelievers.

When Paul commanded the Corinthians as a whole to “open wide” to them in 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 he spoke to them “as my children” in the hope that they would respond by separating.

However, when Paul gave the command to the repentant “to make room for us” in 2 Corinthians 7:2, he expected them to respond by separating, having proven themselves to be among God’s people by their repentance.

While the command in 2 Corinthians 6:13 “to open wide” was a call to repentance by the church as a whole, 2 Corinthians 7:2 is aimed at those whose hearts were already “opened wide” but who were still in need of separation.

Paul went on to support his command to the repentant with a threefold assertion in 2 Corinthians 7:2.

When Paul reversed the normal word order of “life and death,” he most likely alluded to the death and resurrection of Christ as being played out in his own life on behalf of the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 4:10-12).

Paul, in giving his command to the repentant in 2 Corinthians 7:2-3, stated that in 2 Corinthians 7:4 his disposition toward them when giving the command was one of comfort and joy.

May God give us the grace, even in the midst of all our afflictions, to find comfort and joy in the spiritual progress of others.