

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for November 21, 2010**

**“Comfort and Joy for a Caring Heart”**  
**2 Corinthians 7:5-7**

What are the basic components of Paul’s first admonishment to the repentant within the church of Corinth in 2 Corinthians 7:2-16?

The first component is Paul’s command to make room for him and his associates in their hearts (2 Corinthians 7:2-3).

The second component is Paul’s stated disposition of comfort and joy toward the repentant within Corinth, when he gave the command for them to “make room for us in your hearts” (2 Corinthians 7:3).

The third component of Paul’s admonishment is an explanation of how God through recent events had comforted Paul and filled him with overflowing joy (2 Corinthians 7:5-16).

The first event that God used to comfort Paul and to fill him with joy was the coming of Titus while Paul was in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 7:5-7).

Though Paul went to Macedonia to find Titus, all that he initially found were afflictions on every side, conflicts without, and fears within (2 Corinthians 7:5).

The “conflicts without” that Paul referenced after he arrived in Macedonia are not spelled out for us, but certainly those conflicts could have been with people both inside and outside the Macedonian church.

The “fears within,” that Paul experienced while in Macedonia prior to the arrival of Titus, concerned the welfare of his co-worker Titus and the spiritual state of the Corinthian church.

Paul was deeply concerned for the welfare of Titus and the spiritual state of the Corinthians church, but God in the midst of those concerns comforted him by the coming of Titus (2 Corinthians 7:6).

The phrase “but God who comforts the depressed” is an allusion to Isaiah 49:13, which speaks of God’s future comforting of the downcast among His people under the future blessings of the new covenant.

As wonderful as Paul's joy was at Titus's return, it was exceeded by the news Titus brought with him that he had been comforted by the Corinthians due to their positive re-embrace of Paul (2 Corinthians 7:7).

May God give us the grace to know as those who have entered into the blessings of the new covenant, that even though we may become downcast, it is His desire to comfort us and fill us with joy.