

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for December 5, 2010**

**“Comfort and Joy for a Caring Heart”**  
**2 Corinthians 7:8-13**

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 (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 with a good report concerning the Corinthians while Paul was in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 7:5-7).

The second event that God used to comfort Paul and to fill him with joy was the positive response of the Corinthians to the “severe letter” (2 Corinthians 7:8-13).

When Paul referred to the Corinthians as having been made sorrowful “according to the will of God,” he meant that they had experienced the kind of sorrow that God had intended.

Paul knew that the sorrow that the Corinthians had experienced was according to the will of God because their sorrow had brought them to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9).

Repentance includes both the remorse that comes from recognizing that one has wronged God and its consequent resolve to reverse one’s behavior (Isaiah 66:1-2).

Professing believers who have been made sorrowful according to the will of God and have been brought to the point of repentance can be assured that their sorrow will lead to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10).

But if the sorrow of professing believers is not according to the will of God, and does not lead to repentance but is more like the sorrow of the world, it will only lead to death (2 Corinthians 7:10).

The sorrow of the world is not present because of any remorse for sin they have committed in their rebellion against God, but rather because of the painful and unwelcome consequences of the sin.

Paul provided the Corinthians with a sevenfold expression of their repentance in 2 Corinthians 7:11.

May God give us the grace when we sin to manifest the godly sorrow that will lead to repentance and confirm that we are the children of God.