

## 2 Corinthians

### Lesson #12, Chapter 6:1-7:16

Read Chapters 6 and 7 together.

1. Please summarize the essence of these 2 chapters.
2. How is Chapter 6 connected in thought to the preceding verses in Chapter 5?
3. As he has done often in this book, Paul is defending his ministry from the slandering, Word-adulterating false teachers. In this section, he urges those who have not repented of their sin to be reconciled to God and to him (Paul). In 6:1 Paul urges the Corinthians not to receive the grace of God in vain. *Vain* means “empty, the hollowness of anything, the absence of that which might be possessed.” Look up the following references to see how Paul uses the word *vain* in other places: 1 Cor. 15:10, 14, 58; Gal. 2:2; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thess. 2:1; 3:5.
4. How does Paul use *vain* here in 6:1?
5. When is the best time to repent and be reconciled to God according to verse 2? Why?
6. Paul spends the next 7 verses explaining and defending his ministry to the Corinthians, sandwiched between his appeals for their repentance and reconciliation with him. Paul worked hard in his ministry to make sure nothing would be “in vain” so that the Corinthians would have no excuse for

- reconciling with God and with Paul. What do you observe about Paul's ministry from verses 3-10?
7. In 6:11-13, what happens in a relationship without reconciliation?
  8. Chapter 6:14-18 reveals one of the reasons the Corinthians needed to be reconciled to God and to Paul. What is the issue and why is it so important?
  9. What action does Paul urge the Corinthians toward in chapter 7 verse 1 after discussing not being bound with unbelievers in verses 14-18 of chapter 6?
  10. How do the promises of 6:16-18 help you to apply the exhortation of 7:1 in your own life?
  11. Define *cleanse* [NIV *purify* (Strong's #2511)].
    - a. Define *defilement* [NKJV *filthiness*; NIV *everything that contaminates* (Strong's #3436)].
    - b. Define *perfecting* [ESV *bringing* (Strong's #2005)].

12. What are some things that defile the flesh and spirit? What are some concrete ways you can cleanse or rid yourself of them?
  
13. Chapter 7:2-4 is not introducing a new topic, but ties in with everything Paul has written from 5:20 on. Explain how it all fits together.
  
14. How does Paul encourage the Corinthians in the reconciliation/repentance process (verses 2-4)?
  
15. Paul writes 7:5-16 to illustrate his joy in his affliction. What did the Corinthians do that gave Paul such joy?
  
16. What are the characteristics of the sorrow that leads to repentance and the characteristics of the sorrow that is not repentant (verses 5-16)?
  
17. How would knowing these characteristics of godly sorrow help you in dealing with someone (or even yourself!) who says they have repented of some sin? What do you do if their “sorrow” doesn’t match the characteristics of godly sorrow listed here? (Hint: begin at 5:20 and list the process Paul takes the Corinthians through).
  
18. Please recognize that anytime you sin, the message of this study is for you. Just to make sure you’ve “got it” please answer the following questions based on 5:20-7:16.

