

## **“WHEN PAIN PRODUCES JOY”**

**(2Corinthians 7:1-16)**

*June 25, 2017*

**Paul earlier expressed his fear that his harsh words may have been MISUNDERSTOOD:**

*For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.*  
*2Corinthians 2:4*

**It is hard to miss Paul's love for his fellow Christians and his desire for their best. He continues:**

### **I. The RESOLUTION**

**Since we HAVE the promises of God to receive us and be our Father, we need to do all WE can to purify ourselves of evil influences, to turn from the unclean to the clean.**

### **II. The REQUEST**

*“Make room for us in your hearts.”*

**What can they have AGAINST him?**

**He tells them that they have a place in his heart, even to the extent that would LIVE or DIE with them. Paul is encouraged because of one of God's greatest gifts – HOPE. Pain that leads to JOY.**

### **III. The RELIEF**

**Paul had planned to meet with Titus and get the report he had been so anxious about. Paul honestly admits that he found no rest, no PEACE. But, then comes the turning point:**

**Titus delivered a GREAT report – that the Corinthians were sorrowful and concerned for Paul - “so that my joy was greater than ever.”**

**Pain has led to JOY!**

#### **IV. The REPENTANCE**

**How important is the topic of repentance in the Christian life?**

**Crucial! Without repentance, there would be no SALVATION:**

*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.* *Psalm 28:13*

*[Jesus] But unless you repent, you too will all perish.* *Luke 13:3*

*But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.* *Romans 2:5*

**No UNREPENTANT person will be in heaven.**

**Paul can say that he is not sorry if his previous letter caused them sorrow and grief. The OUTCOME is what matters. Paul may have caused them some TEMPORARY pain as they had him, but that pain has led to ultimate joy – the joy of SALVATION.**

**And godly sorrow does a work in a person's life. Paul describes it: earnestness, eagerness, longing, concern, readiness to see justice done.**

**We should always long for God's mercy and grace. Then the pain of judgment YIELDS to the joy of mercy.**

#### **V. The REAFFIRMATION**

**Paul's faith in the Corinthian church was reaffirmed by two factors. First, they had received Titus and the message he carried with Christian CHARITY.**

**Paul had BRAGGED about them to Titus.**

**What gives Paul the greatest satisfaction is that they had received Titus as a spokesperson for BOTH Paul and God.**

**All of the pain he experienced from them and the pain he inflicted on them through his stern words have LED to his reaffirmation of them.**

**That is truly an example of PAIN that leads to JOY.**