

God Comforts the Depressed

II Corinthians 7:1-16

3/3/02

Intro

- What a Christian believes class.
 - Prayer and Soup Dinner Fellowship.
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In chapter six, Paul gave us insight into how to prepare our lives for being used of the Lord. These insights help us also see the heart and character of the Lord. He said, “Give no cause for offense in anything... Do not be bound together with unbelievers... and let God father you.”

Now we see God’s heart even more as we look into chapter seven. Paul says that when he first sent I Corinthians to them, he regretted it. He knew it was a strong letter. But when he heard that the letter created quite a stir and that there were some who were angry at Paul, he became depressed, or down-cast. He didn’t want to hurt, only to help.

But we see God’s heart here in that it says that God loves to comfort the depressed. Some are down-cast for long periods of time, and some for only short periods of time, but many people have felt the weight and burden of it.

These verses give us insights into God’s heart for those who are down-cast.

I. Let us cleanse ourselves.

A. Having these promises.

- Those promises in verses 6: 16-18.
 1. “I will dwell in them.”

2. “I will be their God.”
3. “I will welcome you.”
4. and, “I will be a father to you.”

B. Let us cleanse ourselves from those things which defile the flesh and the soul.

- It’s easy to be down-cast when your soul is defiled.
- Notice Paul says to *cleanse ourselves*.
- Sometimes we ask God to do what he is actually asking us to do.

Illus – Naaman had leprosy and Elisha sent word that he should dip seven times in the River Jordan -II Kings 5.

C. Paul says in Ephesians 5, “Cleanse her with the washing of water with the word.”

- Jesus said , “You are clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.”
- Notice Paul says to clean the flesh *and* the spirit – the outside and the inside.
- Jesus accused the Pharisees of cleaning only the outside.

II. God loves to comfort the depressed.

A. This is a character quality of God.

- He comforts the depressed.

➤ ***“Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and you will find rest.”***

➤ He is the “God of all comfort.”

B. He sets us free from the lies of the enemy.

➤ Jesus said that the truth sets is free.

➤ If ***My Word*** abides in you, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

➤ Having God's perspective is very healing.

Illus – This is often overlooked when people get counseling.

III. Sometimes, sorrow is a good thing.

VS 9

A. Paul calls it, “Godly sorrow.”

➤ This is sorrow that is according to the will of God.

➤ This is sorrow that produces repentance without regret.

B. It’s about making a difference.

➤ Some people say, “God wants me happy.”

➤ They use this to justify all kinds of behaviors.

➤ But frankly, sometimes, God wants us sorrowful.

➤ Because God desires to see real change.

VS 11

Illus - The Corinthians were sorrowful, but it caused them to take action. That is a good thing.

C. The sorrow of the world produces only death.

➤ Some people feel badly because they got caught. This isn’t repentance.

➤ Their only regret is that they got caught.

➤ Helping people to change can be difficult when they don’t want to hear.

➤ Jesus said, “To those who have ears to hear.”

Illus- Some people think it’s easier to just not confront their children.

Illus – Jehoshaphat, Ahab, and Miciah. Some people just won’t listen.

Conclusion

These insights will help us become a church that is truly changed by the Word of God. May we delight in Him, find the comfort when we are downcast, but be willing to change when we have sorrow.