

Dr. J. Ayodeji Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 8, 2 Corinthians 7 – Urgent Appeals Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 8, 2 Corinthians 7 – Urgent Appeals, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Ayo Adewuya's teaching session on 2 Corinthians chapter 7 examines Paul's urgent appeals for reconciliation and renewed fellowship with the Corinthian church. The session **analyzes Paul's exhortation for moral cleansing** based on God's promises, emphasizing its comprehensive impact on the believer's life. Adewuya **explores Paul's joy at the Corinthians' positive response** to his prior letter, highlighting the distinction between worldly sorrow and godly grief that leads to repentance and salvation. The teaching further **details Paul's expressions of confidence** in the Corinthians, emphasizing the restoration of mutual trust and affection facilitated by Titus's positive report. Ultimately, the session portrays Paul's pastoral heart seeking to ensure the spiritual well-being of the Corinthians and prepare them for future requests.

2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 8 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → 2 Corinthians).



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3. Briefing Document: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 8, 2 Corinthians 7 – Urgent Appeals

Briefing Document: 2 Corinthians 7 - Urgent Appeals

Overview: This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Ayo Adewuya in his session on 2 Corinthians chapter 7, titled "Urgent Appeals." The session focuses on Paul's continued efforts to reconcile with the Corinthian church, his explanation of his previous disciplinary letter, and his joy at their positive response and the encouraging report from Titus.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. Completing the Digression and Exhortation to Holiness (7:1):

- Dr. Adewuya clarifies that 2 Corinthians 7:1 concludes the "digression" that began in 6:14 regarding separation from pagan practices.
- Paul urges believers to **"cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God."** This exhortation is based on the "great promises" of God to be their Father and for them to be His sons and daughters (referencing Old Testament passages).
- The word "purify" or "cleanse" originates in cultic settings but is extended here to include moral cleansing, affecting the "whole person" – body and spirit.
- The term "defilement" (Greek: *molusmou*) is used only once in the New Testament and refers to moral and spiritual contamination from pagan practices.
- Paul emphasizes that every aspect of a believer's life should be touched by God's cleansing power, echoing Romans 12:1-2.
- Dr. Adewuya cites John Wesley's definition of sanctification as "cleansing from outward and inward sin in every aspect of our lives."
- He assures listeners that whatever God commands, His Spirit makes possible, drawing a contrast with Pharaoh's unreasonable demands.
- The process involves believers doing their part ("Let us purify ourselves") and allowing God to do His part ("let us perfect holiness").
- "Perfecting holiness" is the purpose of the Christian life, which Adam Clarke defines as "getting the whole mind of Christ brought into the soul."

2. Renewal of Appeal for Fellowship and Mutual Confidence (7:2-4):

- Paul renews his "urgent appeal" for fellowship with the Corinthians, emphasizing the need for their confidence in him, as the credibility of his message depends on their trust in the messenger.
- He laments the division and lack of connection sometimes found within denominations, stressing the importance of the church being a "**communion of saints that is characterized by mutual love and shared trust.**"
- Paul reiterates his plea for them to "**Make room for us in your hearts,**" a sentiment first expressed in 6:11-13. This affectionate appeal highlights the openness of Paul's heart towards them.
- Paul seeks to complete his reconciliation by addressing potential questions about his conduct, asserting in a threefold statement: "**We have wronged no one. We've corrupted no one. We've taken advantage of no one.**"
- "Wronged" refers to general wrongdoing involving injury or unjust treatment.
- "Corrupted" pertains to morals or doctrine, with Paul denying that he ever distorted the gospel.
- "Exploited" means defrauded or taken advantage of financially, a point Paul will revisit in chapter 12. Dr. Adewuya wishes more ministers could make such a bold claim today.
- These general denials suggest Paul might be responding to unspecified accusations.
- Paul assures them, "**I do not say this to condemn you. For I said before that you are in our hearts. To die together and to live together.**" This underscores his deep bond and loyalty to them.
- He expresses his pride, consolation, and joy in them despite their afflictions, highlighting his genuine affection.

3. The Coming of Titus and Renewed Comfort (7:5-7):

- Paul resumes the narrative of his travels, specifically his anxious wait for Titus in Macedonia after sending him to Corinth with the "sorrowful letter."
- He describes his physical and emotional distress: "**when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way, disputes**

without and fears within." This emphasizes Paul's humanity and the genuine concern that increased his suffering.

- However, he highlights God's comforting presence: "**But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus.**" This "but God" moment signifies divine intervention and comfort.
- God is defined as the "comforter," who turned Paul's "restless despair into boundless joy" through Titus' arrival.
- Paul's comfort came not only from Titus' presence but also from "**the consolation with which he has consoled you.**" This indicates that Titus brought good news about the Corinthians' positive response to Paul's letter.
- The shared joy between Paul and Titus illustrates the principle that sharing joy multiplies it.
- Paul recognized God's hand in all these human affairs, orchestrating events to bring about comfort and joy.

4. The Repentance of the Church and Godly Sorrow (7:8-11):

- Paul addresses his "sorrowful letter," stating, "**For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it, though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly.**"
- He acknowledges a moment of regret before Titus' return, fearing a negative reception. However, now that the letter achieved its purpose, he no longer regrets it.
- His joy is not in their initial grief but because "**your grief led to repentance.**" He clarifies that this was "**godly grief,**" which did them no lasting harm.
- He distinguishes between "godly grief" and "worldly grief": "**For godly grief produces repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.**"
- Repentance is defined as a "change of mind," a complete turning, and the fruit of godly sorrow. Sorrow indicates a change of mood, while repentance is a deeper spiritual and behavioral transformation.
- Dr. Adewuya notes that Paul uses the noun "repentance" infrequently, primarily for believers within the church to remedy their wrong choices, rather than for unbelievers turning to God (where he often uses "faith").

- The Corinthians' sorrow was "**according to the will of God**" and prompted them to see the seriousness of their sin as an offense to God.
- Paul highlights the positive outcomes of this godly grief: "**what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment.**" These demonstrate their genuine repentance and desire to rectify the situation.
- He concludes this point by affirming, "**At every point, you have proved yourself guiltless in this matter.**"

5. The Purpose of the Sorrowful Letter (7:12):

- Paul clarifies his motivation for writing the letter: "**although I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did wrong, nor on account of the one who was wronged, but in order that your zeal for us might be made known to you before God.**"
- His primary concern was not to address the specific offense or the offender but to address the Corinthians' spiritual integrity and their relationship with Paul as their spiritual father.
- He emphasizes that their relationship with God and their relationship with Paul were interconnected.

6. Paul's Encouragement and Joy in Titus' Report (7:13-16):

- Paul expresses his comfort and increased joy at Titus' positive experience: "**By all this we are encouraged...we rejoice still more at the joy of Titus, because his mind has been set at rest by all of you.**"
- He notes that Titus' favorable reception by the Corinthians refreshed his spirit and validated Paul's positive words about them.
- Paul states, "**For if I had been somewhat boastful about you to him, I was not disgraced. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has proved true as well.**" This highlights the vindication of Paul's confidence in them.
- Titus' affection for the Corinthians has also increased, particularly as he remembers their "**respect that they showed him and the obedience that they gave to Paul's letter.**"

- The phrase "**with fear and trembling**" used to describe the Corinthians' welcome of Titus, signifies their recognition of him as Paul's authoritative representative and a divine messenger, potentially echoing the proper reverence before God.
- Paul concludes the chapter with renewed confidence: "**I rejoice because I have complete confidence in you.**"
- Dr. Adewuya notes that this positive conclusion serves as persuasive rhetoric, laying the groundwork for Paul's upcoming requests regarding the collection in chapters 8 and 9.
- While acknowledging that challenges might still exist (hinted at in 2 Corinthians 10-13), Paul ends this section on a very positive note, encouraging believers to exercise more confidence in others, rooted in God's power and desire.
- Paul's joy is deeply connected to the well-being of those he cares for, and his confidence in the Corinthians stems from their open hearts and the continued grace of God in their lives.

Conclusion:

Dr. Adewuya's session on 2 Corinthians 7 highlights Paul's pastoral heart and his persistent efforts towards reconciliation. The chapter emphasizes the importance of godly sorrow leading to genuine repentance, the necessity of mutual trust and affection within the church, and the comforting and encouraging role of God and fellow believers in times of difficulty. Paul's joy at the Corinthians' positive response and the encouraging report from Titus marks a significant step forward in restoring their relationship.

4. Study Guide: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 8, 2 Corinthians 7 – Urgent Appeals

2 Corinthians 7: Urgent Appeals - Study Guide

Key Themes:

- The Importance of Holiness and Cleansing
- Renewal of Fellowship and Reconciliation
- Paul's Integrity and Defense of His Ministry
- The Impact of Godly Sorrow and Repentance
- Paul's Joy and Confidence in the Corinthians

Quiz:

1. According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:1, what should believers do in light of God's great promises?
2. Dr. Adewuya explains that Paul uses "flesh and spirit" in 7:1 not as opposing ethical principles, but in what way?
3. Why was it crucial for Paul to restore the Corinthians' confidence in him, as mentioned in the lecture?
4. What threefold statement does Paul make in 2 Corinthians 7:2 to demonstrate that he did not mistreat the Corinthians?
5. According to the lecture, what two things are required for genuine fellowship to exist between individuals or churches?
6. What was the purpose of the "sorrowful letter" that Paul sent to the Corinthians, as discussed in the lecture?
7. What is the key distinction made between "godly grief" and "worldly grief" in 2 Corinthians 7:10?
8. Dr. Adewuya highlights that in Paul's usage in this context, repentance is primarily for whom?
9. What news from Titus brought comfort and joy to Paul when they met in Macedonia?

10. In 2 Corinthians 7:17, what reason is given for the Corinthians' "fear and trembling" in their reception of Titus?

Answer Key:

1. Paul states that since believers have these great promises (to be God's children), they should cleanse themselves from every defilement of body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. This means living in a way that befits their calling as God's children.
2. Paul uses "flesh and spirit" in a popular manner to refer to the whole person, viewed both physically and spiritually. He is emphasizing that every aspect of a believer's being needs to be touched by God's cleansing power, not that these are opposing moral forces.
3. A lack of confidence in Paul as the messenger would likely result in a lack of confidence in his message, the gospel that brought them to Christ. The credibility of the message was tied to the credibility of the messenger.
4. Paul insists that he has wronged no one (injury or unjust treatment), corrupted no one (morally or doctrinally), and taken advantage of no one (exploited or defrauded). This threefold denial aimed to address potential misgivings about his conduct.
5. Genuine fellowship requires both sharing and mutuality. There needs to be a reciprocal openness and affection for a true bond to exist between individuals or groups.
6. While the painful incident was the occasion, Paul's primary purpose in writing the sorrowful letter was so that the Corinthians' zeal for him might be made known to them before God. He was concerned with their spiritual integrity and loyalty to their spiritual father.
7. Godly grief produces repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, representing a change of mind. Worldly grief, on the other hand, produces death, indicating a sorrow without true change that leads to despair.
8. In the specific context of 2 Corinthians 7, Dr. Adewuya points out that Paul uses the term "repentance" primarily for believers within the church who need to remedy their wrong choices.

9. Titus brought news of the consolation he had received from the Corinthians, detailing their longing for Paul, their mourning, and their zeal for him. This positive response to Paul's letter greatly comforted and encouraged the apostle.
10. The Corinthians' "fear and trembling" in receiving Titus stemmed from their recognition of him not only as Paul's authentic and authoritative representative but also as a divine messenger, reflecting a proper reverence for God's will being communicated to them.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Analyze the connection Paul draws between God's promises in 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 and the call for ethical living in 2 Corinthians 7:1. How does this relationship underscore the motivation for Christian holiness?
2. Discuss the significance of Paul's defense of his integrity in 2 Corinthians 7:2-4 within the broader context of his relationship with the Corinthian church. Why was it necessary for him to address potential accusations?
3. Compare and contrast "godly sorrow" and "worldly sorrow" as presented in 2 Corinthians 7:9-10. What are the distinguishing characteristics of each, and what are their respective outcomes?
4. Examine the role of Titus's visit in the unfolding narrative of 2 Corinthians 7. How did his report impact Paul, and what does this reveal about the nature of apostolic ministry and fellowship?
5. Explore the evolution of Paul's tone and confidence towards the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 7. What factors contributed to his renewed joy and trust, and how might this section prepare the reader for the subsequent chapters of the letter?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Defilement (molusmou):** Moral and spiritual contamination, specifically used in this context to refer to the negative impact of participation in pagan practices.
- **Holiness:** The state of being set apart for God and conforming to his character; in this context, Paul emphasizes perfecting holiness through cleansing.
- **Agapetoi:** A Greek word meaning "beloved" or "dear friends," often used by Paul to describe those with whom he shared a close and affectionate relationship.
- **Cultic Settings:** Environments or practices associated with worship, often involving rituals of purification or cleansing.
- **Circumlocution:** An indirect way of expressing something, in this case, "body and spirit" serving as a way to refer to the whole person.
- **Sanctification:** The process of being made holy or set apart for God; John Wesley defined it as cleansing from outward and inward sin in every aspect of life.
- **Reconciliation:** The act of restoring friendly relations between two or more parties after a period of estrangement or conflict.
- **Mutual Confidence:** A reciprocal trust and assurance between individuals or groups.
- **Wrong (adikēsamen):** A general term for wrongdoing that involves injury or unjust treatment, the opposite of righteousness.
- **Corrupt (ephtheiramen):** To ruin morally or doctrinally; in this context, Paul denies corrupting the gospel through his preaching.
- **Exploit (epleonektēsamen):** To take unfair advantage of someone for personal gain; Paul denies defrauding or outwitting the Corinthians.
- **Godly Grief (hē kata Theon lypē):** Sorrow or distress that is in accordance with God's will and leads to repentance and salvation.
- **Worldly Grief (hē tou kosmou lypē):** Sorrow or regret that does not lead to genuine repentance and ultimately produces death or despair.
- **Repentance (metanoia):** A change of mind, attitude, and behavior, often resulting from godly sorrow, leading to a turning away from sin.

- **Earnestness (spoudē):** Diligence, eagerness, and a proactive approach to addressing a situation.
- **Indignation (aganaktēsis):** Righteous anger or displeasure at wrongdoing.
- **Alarm (phobos):** Fear or concern, in this context, likely related to the seriousness of the situation and its potential consequences.
- **Longing (epipothia):** A strong desire or yearning, in this case, likely for reconciliation and restoration.
- **Zeal (zēlos):** Passionate commitment and fervor, directed towards rectifying the wrong.
- **Punishment (ekdikēsis):** Taking action to correct wrongdoing or administer justice.
- **Vindication:** The act of clearing someone of blame or suspicion; in this context, Paul refers to the vindication of his confidence in the Corinthians.
- **Fear and Trembling (meta phobou kai tromou):** A state of reverence, awe, and serious consideration, often used in the context of one's relationship with God or his representatives.
- **Rhetoric:** The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing.

5. FAQs on Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 8, 2 Corinthians 7 – Urgent Appeals, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on 2 Corinthians 7

1. What is the significance of Paul's opening remarks in 2 Corinthians 7:1, and what "great promises" is he referring to? Paul concludes a digression that began in 2 Corinthians 6:14, urging believers to cleanse themselves from every defilement of body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. The "great promises" he refers to are those where God declares, "I will be your God, and you will be my sons and daughters," emphasizing a familial relationship with God and his welcoming presence. Based on these promises, Paul calls for ethical living that aligns with this divine calling.

2. What does Paul mean by "cleansing ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit" (2 Corinthians 7:1), and why is it important? This exhortation calls for a thorough moral cleansing affecting the whole person – both physically and spiritually. The term "defilement" (*molusmou*) specifically refers to the moral and spiritual contamination resulting from participation in pagan practices, highlighting the need to separate from such influences. Paul emphasizes that no aspect of a believer's life is exempt from this cleansing power, echoing the sentiment that our entire being belongs to God. This cleansing is made possible by God's provision through His Word, Spirit, and the blood of Christ.

3. Why does Paul emphasize the need for renewed mutual confidence and reconciliation with the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 7:2-4? Paul recognizes that the Corinthians lacked confidence in him, which could undermine their acceptance of his message. He urgently appeals for them to "make room in their hearts" for him, asserting that he has wronged, corrupted, or exploited no one. This threefold denial suggests potential accusations against him. Paul's initiative in seeking reconciliation demonstrates his profound love for them and highlights the importance of mutual trust and love within the church as a "communion of saints."

4. How does Paul address the sorrow he caused the Corinthians through his previous letter, as explained in 2 Corinthians 7:8-13? Paul initially regretted sending the "sorrowful letter" due to the pain it caused the Corinthians. However, upon learning of their positive response, which led to "godly grief" and repentance, he no longer regretted it. He distinguishes between worldly grief, which leads to death, and godly grief, which produces repentance leading to salvation. This repentance signifies a complete change of mind and attitude, demonstrating their spiritual integrity and resolving the issues within the church.

5. What is the difference between "worldly grief" and "godly grief" as described by Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:10, and what are their respective outcomes? Worldly grief is characterized by mere remorse or regret, often stemming from being caught or facing negative consequences. It does not necessarily involve a change of heart or behavior and ultimately "produces death." In contrast, godly grief is a sorrow that aligns with God's will, prompting individuals to recognize the seriousness of their sin as an offense against God. This godly sorrow leads to genuine repentance, a change of mind and life, which ultimately results in salvation and brings no regret.

6. What evidence does Paul provide in 2 Corinthians 7:11 to demonstrate the positive impact of godly sorrow on the Corinthians? Paul points to the earnestness, eagerness to clear themselves, indignation, alarm, longing, zeal, and punishment that their godly grief produced. These actions demonstrated their commitment to addressing the issues and proving themselves guiltless in the matter. This fervent response indicated a genuine change of heart and a desire to restore their relationship with Paul and with God.

7. According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:12-14, what was his primary reason for writing the sorrowful letter to the Corinthians? While the specific wrongdoing in Corinth was the occasion for the letter, Paul states that his primary purpose was not to focus on the wrongdoer or the wronged party. Instead, he wrote "in order that your zeal for us might be made known to you before God." His concern was for their spiritual integrity and their attitude towards him as their spiritual father, emphasizing the interconnectedness of their relationship with Paul and their relationship with God. He rejoiced in the positive report from Titus, which vindicated his confidence in them.

8. What is the significance of Paul's expression of "complete confidence" in the Corinthians at the end of 2 Corinthians 7:16, and how does it relate to his upcoming requests in chapters 8 and 9? Paul concludes this section on a very positive note, expressing his joy and "complete confidence" in the Corinthians due to their positive response and the reconciliation achieved. This restored confidence, rooted in the continued operation of God's grace in their lives and their renewed openness to him, serves as persuasive rhetoric, intentionally laying the groundwork for his upcoming requests concerning the collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem, which he will address in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9.