



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of June 4, 2017

WEPC small groups meet in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's Word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

II Corinthians 7:5-16 "Godly Grief"

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. ⁶ But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷ and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸ For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹ For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to

clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹² So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³ Therefore we are comforted.

And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴ For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. ¹⁵ And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

- Read II Corinthians 7:5-7. Paul recalls how his Macedonian ministry was marked by "fighting without and fear within" (5) and God's comfort through Titus' report of what God was doing in Corinth. What encouraged Paul? How was Paul reminded of God through Timothy's testimony?
- Read II Corinthians 7:8-13a. Paul remembers the Corinthian's response of grief to his letter (8), and he compares "worldly" and "godly" grief. What are the contrasting characteristics of the two kinds of grief? (10)
- What makes worldly grief so insidious?
- Can you think of examples of these two kinds of grief over sin in yourself?
- What did godly grief produce in the Corinthians (11)
- Why did this produce comfort for Paul (12-13a)?
- Read II Corinthians 7:13b-16. How does Paul seek to encourage the Corinthians?
- Have you experienced the spiritual process of affliction, comfort, and rejoicing described in this passage? Share your experience to encourage the group. God's comfort creates comforters. Are you currently in affliction and awaiting comfort? Pray as a group for God's comfort to come.

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on II Corinthians 7:5-16

- Paul addresses here his broken relationship with the Corinthians and how God through His gift of repentance in the Corinthians had changed the dynamic of their relationship.
- The Corinthians had tears, not just in longing for Paul but over the brokenness of their relationship.
- Paul then mentions the letter that caused grief.
- The importance of “time” in all of this.
- For “a while” / an hour (v.8)
- “The grief he brought the Corinthians only worked them good, because it brought about their repentance. They were grieved according to God. That is to say, their grief was worked by God and rested in His hand. It has its time, but that time had come to an end in their change of heart. The healing God works through wounding is complete and whole. God wills to restore us, not destroy us, even though he must perform the latter in order to accomplish the former.” (Mark Seifrid)
- How does Paul know they repented? “Earnestness...eagerness to clear yourselves...indignation...fear...longing...zeal...punishment” (v.11).
- They are intent on accepting Paul, they are now defending him, and their indignation etc., has to do with how they are now dealing with the offenders in their midst.
- As a result of their repentance, Paul now overlooks the guilt of the Corinthians, treating it under the gospel as non-existent, after all, “He made him to be sin, who had no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” ([II Corinthians 5:21](#))
- The difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow: Hope versus hopelessness.
- Some practical considerations for us whether you are the one rebuked or the one doing the rebuking:
 - The goal - Salvation
 - The humility – Blind Spots
 - The time it takes - Hope
 - The God behind all of this – Repentance is His gift
 - The aftermath – Restoration of joy