

Paul's Letters to the Church at Corinth

Perfecting Holiness in the Fear of God

2 Corinthians 6:11-7:16

Lesson 16

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
April 21, 2013*

2 Corinthians

1. Salutation (1:1-11)
 2. The Apostle's Ministry (1:12-7:16)
 3. The Collection for the Saints (8-9)
 4. Paul's Defense of his Apostleship (10:1-13:10)
 5. Conclusion (13:11-14)
- ▶ Key Passage: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Why did Paul write this epistle?

- ▶ 1 Corinthians – response to report and letter
- ▶ A painful visit (2 Corinthians 2:1)
- ▶ A severe letter (2 Corinthians 2:3-4; 7:8)
- ▶ A good report from Titus
- ▶ Restoration and edification (11:2; 13:9-10)

What did Paul write to them?

- ▶ A word of comfort (1:3-7; 2:7; 7:4-13; 13:11)
 - Encouragement
 - For benefit of others
- ▶ The nature of Christian ministry (2:12-7:16)
- ▶ Collection for the saints + Paul's defense
- ▶ Perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord
 - A call to holiness
 - Godly sorrow

Paul's love for the Corinthian believers

(6:11-13)

- ▶ Simplicity and godly sincerity (1:12)
- ▶ Open heart – sincere love (6:12-13)
- ▶ We die and live together (7:3)
- ▶ A call for a response from Corinth (7:2-4)

No Unequal Yokes (6:14)

- ▶ An unequal yoke with unbelievers
- ▶ Deut. 22:10 – “Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.”
- ▶ Not mere associations with unbelievers (1 Cor. 5:9-10)
- ▶ In things pertaining to God – worship/service
- ▶ Romans 12:1-2
 - Living sacrifice
 - Acceptable to God – Holy
 - A spiritual service of worship
 - Non-conformity with world– transformed minds

5 Irreconcilable Opposites

- ▶ Righteousness – lawlessness
 - No partnership (metotoche)
- ▶ Light – darkness
 - No fellowship – sharing a common experience (koinoneo)
- ▶ Christ – Belial
 - No accord – sound together (symphonesis)
- ▶ Believer – unbeliever
 - No part (meris)
- ▶ Temple of God – idols
 - No agreement (synkatathesis)

If we are to have the blessing of God in our lives, then we must not form our closest relationships with those who do not know the Lord. Both Scripture and experience show that this is usually disastrous for the Christian. It is one reason why some Christians never get their problems solved. (LDC, 1969)

- ▶ How do my associations affect righteousness, light, Christ, faith, the Temple of God?

We are the Temple of the Living God (6:16b-18)

- ▶ I will make *My* dwelling among them and walk among them
- ▶ I will be their God
- ▶ They shall be my people
- ▶ I will welcome you
- ▶ I will be a father to you

Temple Obligations

- ▶ Separation from sinners
- ▶ Touch no unclean thing
- ▶ Separate from lawlessness, darkness, Belial, unbelief, idols

Perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord (7:1)

- ▶ Holy – to be set apart for God
- ▶ The display of holiness in personal conduct
- ▶ Cleanse body and spirit
- ▶ Bringing holiness to completion

Godly Sorrow (7:2-16)

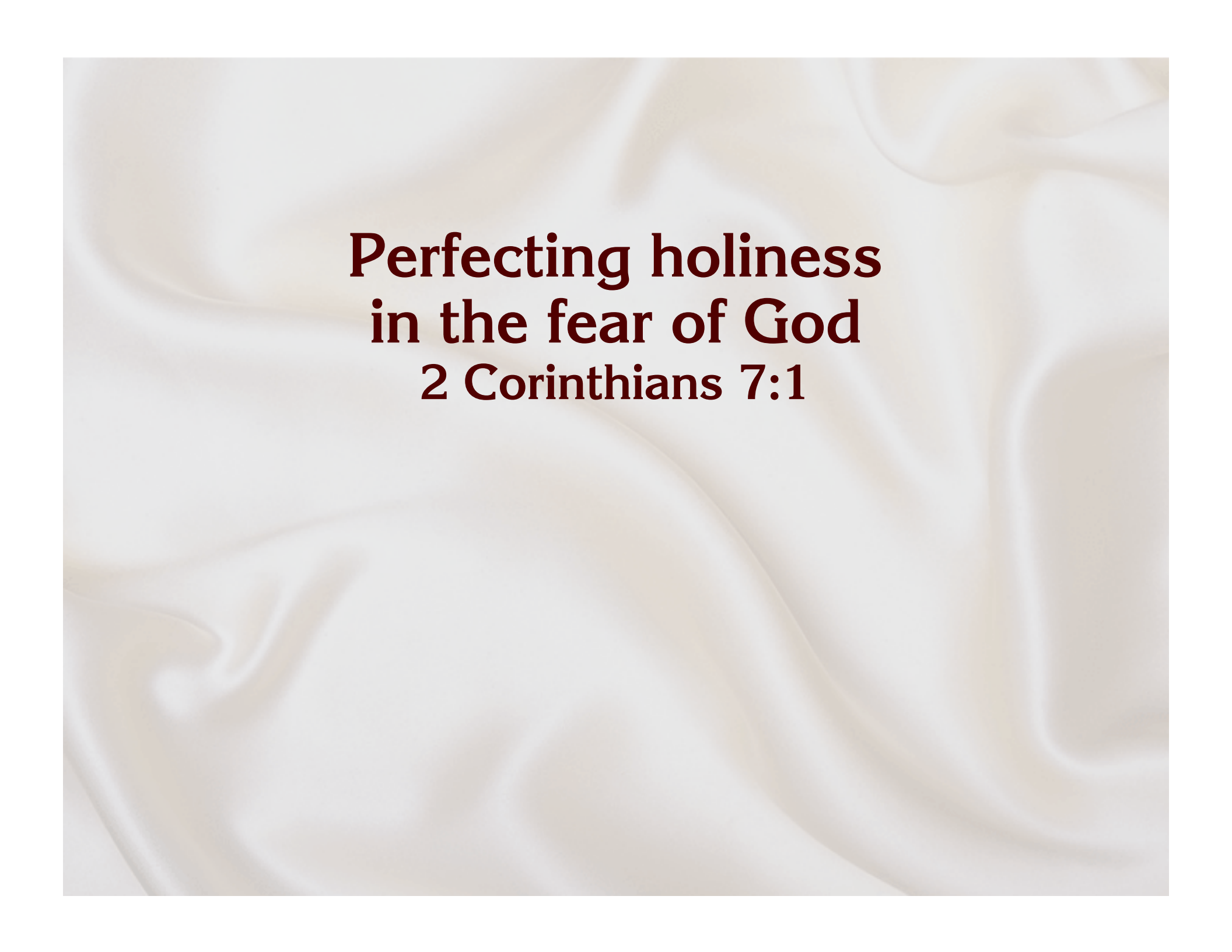
- ▶ Comfort from God (7:6)
- ▶ A “harsh” letter
- ▶ Two kinds of sorrow:
 - ▶ Worldly sorrow produces death
 - ▶ Godly sorrow produces repentance

Evidence of Godly Sorrow

- ▶ Earnestness – carefulness – diligence
- ▶ Clearing yourselves
- ▶ Indignation
- ▶ Fear – fear of God
- ▶ Vehement desire – longing
- ▶ Zeal – Great energy in pursuit of a cause
- ▶ Vengeance – punishment on evildoers

Therefore, we are comforted (7:13)

- ▶ Tribulation in ministry – in the Christian life
 - It is the normal course of the Christian life
 - We share the sufferings of Christ (1:5)
 - Distress over sins in the Church (2:4; 11:28)
- ▶ God of all comfort
 - Comfort based upon the truth of God's salvation
 - Comfort based upon the progress of the Gospel
- ▶ Final word of comfort – 13:11



**Perfecting holiness
in the fear of God
2 Corinthians 7:1**