

## 2 CORINTHIANS 07:10 REPENTANCE: GODLY SORROW AND WORLDLY SORROW

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10*

Sin and irresponsibility cause regret and disappointment, guilt, and remorse. In short, sin causes sorrow. But sorrow has no healing power by itself. Only repentance, a change of mind or a turn of life, can heal the heart of man.

There are two kinds of sorrow.

1. Worldly sorrow. This sorrow can be a sorrow over doing wrong or of coming up short from what one expects. It is a violation of one's values. It can also be a sorrow caused by being found out, or suffering consequences, or being punished. In either case "the sorrow of the world works death" (2 Cor. 7:10). It works death in two ways:

=> It eats a man up with guilt and remorse, depression and despair, defeat and inactivity (cp. *Judas*, Mt. 27:3-5).

=> It embitters a man in rebellion and resentment against the consequences and punishment of sin (cp. *Esau*, Heb. 12:16-17).

2. Godly sorrow. This is the sorrow that is wrought in the heart of the believer by the conviction of the Holy Spirit. When the believer does wrong or falls short, the Holy Spirit is grieved (Eph. 4:30). His work is quenched (1 Th. 5:19). His ministry of making the believer like Jesus is hindered and hampered. So He begins His convicting work. Under the weight of conviction the believer's heart is thereby led to repent. The believer changes his mind and turns his behaviour around to what it should be (cp. *Peter*, Mt. 26:75). Godly sorrow always leads to repentance. A believer who refuses to repent wallows around and eventually dwells in the realm of worldly sorrow. He always bears the mark of indwelling and unconfessed sin and failure.

**Mat 5:4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

**Acts 3:19** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

**2 Cor 7:10** Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

**Joel 2:12** 'Even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.'

**2 Chr 7:14** *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

**Psa 34:18** *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

**Psa 51:17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

**Isa 55:7** *Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

**Isa 66:2** *“Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord. “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.” □*