

## EVENING DEVOTIONS

Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Text: 2 Corinthians 7

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

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. The Church

- a) Carnal
- b) Worldly
- c) Distracted
- d) Weak

#### 2. Believers in General

- a) Lacking in deep knowledge
- b) Struggling with faithfulness
- c) Unfruitful living
- d) Powerless

### ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS IN DEPTH

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

<sup>2</sup> Open *your hearts* to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.

<sup>3</sup> I do not say *this* to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

<sup>4</sup> Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

2 Corinthians 7:1-4

#### 1. An estranged relationship

#### 2. Great tension between Paul and the Corinthian Church

#### 3. The Apostle Paul had to deal with one problem after another (1 Corinthians)

#### **4. Paul's part (his heart) made clear**

- a) Wronged no one
- b) Corrupted no one
- c) Cheated no one

#### **5. A great heart of love for the church**

- a) He had the Church in his heart
- b) He identified fully with the Church  
To live or to die
- c) Boasted about the Church
- d) Filled with comfort and joy

### **THE CHALLENGE ISSUED**

#### **1. Having the Promises of God**

- a) That we are children of God
- b) That God would be Father
- c) That the Holy Spirit would indwell us
- d) That we may be ambassadors for the Lord
- e) That we may have meaningful and fruitful ministries

#### **2. The need to cleanse ourselves**

- a) Of the filthiness of the flesh
- b) Of the filthiness of the spirit

#### **3. To perfect holiness in the fear of God**

### **THE DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS**

#### **1. Important concepts to know**

- a) Justification

- i) By faith
  - ii) By the blood of the Lord Jesus
  - iii) The Righteousness of the Lord Jesus is imputed to us
  - iv) We are declared “holy” in the sight of God
- b) Forgiveness of sin
- i) God has pardoned our sins
  - ii) We stand forgiven in His sight
  - iii) We have access to God
  - iv) We have the Holy Spirit within us

## 2. The Practical Christian Life

- a) Sin lurks inside us
- b) The evil world tempts and lures people away from God
- c) Sin seeks to influence and overcome the believer     Romans 6-7
- d) Sin needs to be dealt with thoroughly and deeply

### DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF SIN CANDIDLY

<sup>8</sup> For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

<sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

<sup>11</sup> For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing *of yourselves*, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

## **1. The Sorrow of the world**

- a) This is simply regret
- b) It does not go very far
- c) It produces death

## **2. Godly sorrow      2 Corinthians 7:10-11**

- a) It produces repentance leading to salvation
- b) The features of true godly sorrow:
  - i) It Produces Diligence
  - ii) Clearing of yourselves
  - iii) Indignation (felt deeply)
  - iv) Fear
  - v) Vehement desire
  - vi) Zeal
  - vii) Vindication of self

## **THE CULTIVATION AND PRACTICE OF HOLINESS**

### **1. What it is NOT**

- a) Not the life of a hermit
- b) Not a life of withdrawing from the world
- c) Not a life of performing religious rite

### **2. What it IS!**

- a) A closeness to God
- b) Confession of sin to the Lord
- c) Cleansing of the flesh and the spirit

- d) A Consecrated Life that is characterised by:
  - i) The Fruit of the Spirit
  - ii) Filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
  - iii) Fullness of the power of God

### **3. The Perfecting of Holiness**

- a) Aspects of Holiness
- b) Degree of Holiness
- c) Perfecting of Holiness as a life-long quest

### **4. The Joy of Holiness**

- a) Joy unspeakable and full of glory
- b) A refined faith that has gone through fire
- c) A consistent faith
- d) A courageous life
- e) A life that reflects concrete relationship with God as our Father in Heaven

### **OUR CHALLENGE**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

<sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

<sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

<sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—

<sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

<sup>21</sup> to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

**1. Make this our Personal Prayer**

**2. Seek the following faithfully:**

- a) Inner man strength
- b) Rooted and grounded in love
- c) Empowered by the Lord