

September 11–17
2 Corinthians 1–7
“Be Ye Reconciled to God”



Introduction

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

1) And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2) I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3) For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Godly Sorrow

2Cor 7:9-10

What do you think Paul means when he says “ye were made sorry after a godly manner”?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"There is an important difference between the sorrow for sin that leads to repentance and the sorrow that leads to despair.

"The Apostle Paul taught that 'godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation'. Godly sorrow inspires change and hope through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Worldly sorrow pulls us down, extinguishes hope, and persuades us to give in to further temptation.

"Godly sorrow leads to conversion and a change of heart. It causes us to hate sin and love goodness. It encourages us to stand up and walk in the light of Christ's love. True repentance is about transformation, not torture or torment." (CR, Oct. 2013)

Reconciliation

2Cor 5:16-21

JST 2Cor 5:16-17

16) Wherefore, henceforth *live* we no *more* after the flesh; yea, *though we once lived after the flesh, yet since we have known Christ, now henceforth live we no more after the flesh.*

17) Therefore if any man live in Christ, he is a new creature...

What does it mean to be reconciled by God?

How can we be reconciled by God?

Kevin S. Hamilton

“Through His grace He can make weak things become strong. If we humble ourselves and have faith in Jesus Christ, then His grace will enable us to change. In other words, He will empower us to change. This is possible because, as He says, ‘my grace is sufficient for all men’ (Ether 12:27). His strengthening, enabling grace gives us power to overcome all obstacles, all challenges, and all weaknesses as we seek to change....

“The Savior worked out His infinite and eternal Atonement so that we could in fact change, repent, and become better. We can actually be born again. We can overcome habits, addictions, and even the ‘disposition to do evil’ (Mosiah 5:2). As sons and daughters of a loving Father in Heaven, we have the power within us to change.” (CR, April 2022)

Delbert L. Stapley

“Man can only become spotless and sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost in his personal life. The Holy Ghost is a cleansing and purifying agent to all who receive it and are righteous. This means that sin and iniquity are spiritually burned out of the repentant person. He then receives a remission of sins, and his soul is sanctified and made clean for the Holy Ghost to abide in him. The cleansed person enjoys a newness of life and becomes a new creature in the spirit.” (CR, Oct. 1966)

Comfort From Afflictions

2Cor 1:3-4,7

Through what means do we receive comfort in our afflictions?

Jeffrey R. Holland

“Concentrate with me for a moment on the first promise—that God is the God of all comfort... Inasmuch as all of us need comfort at so many different moments every day of our lives, it is wonderfully reassuring that our God, our Father, is 'the God of all comfort.' That phrase 'of all comfort' means to me not only that there is no greater source available for solace and strength, but that technically speaking there is no other source.... God comes to us as 'the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.' What a reassurance and reward just to know that such all-encompassing help is available to us in our anxious times." (On Earth As It Is in Heaven, pg. 35-37)

John C. Pingree Jr.

“Our trials help us discover and prepare for the work Heavenly Father has for us. Paul instructed, ‘[God] comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God’. Like the Savior, whose atoning sacrifice enables Him to succor us we can use knowledge gained from difficult experiences to lift, strengthen, and bless others.” (CR, Oct. 2017)

Comfort From Afflictions

2Cor 4:5-9

Why was Paul able to suffer afflictions with such patience and tolerance?

Neal A. Maxwell

"The disciple-one who has committed himself to Christ-is not insulated from the realities of such an unsettled world, yet he will see it differently: 'We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.' (2Cor 4:8–9)

"Part of the reason for the different view is the vantage point of a disciple. He walks the strait and narrow path-even if only by struggling effort-and the perspective from that path is profoundly different." (A Time to Choose, pg. 2)

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“When our souls are anchored in the safe harbor of the Savior, we can proclaim as did Paul: ‘We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.’ (2Cor 4:8–9)” (CR, April 2000)

Come Out From Among Them

2Cor 6:14-18

What do you think it means to “come out from among them, and be ye separate”?

Charles W. Penrose

“Though we mingle with the world, yet we must not pattern after their evil ways nor ‘touch the unclean thing.’ We need not partake of the sins of the world. We can be wrapped around by the influence of our religion as by the garments that we wear, and be separate even though in the midst of the wicked. We need not follow their ways nor be guided by their enticements, or be governed by their nations, but should live according to the light of God; and when evil spirits tempt us and seek to turn us aside from the strait path that leads to the celestial city, stand firm in the spirit of the Gospel and overcome them. And if we overcome all things we shall inherit all things.” (JD, 26:18)

Spirit of the Law

2Cor 3:6,17

What do you think Paul means by, “for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life”?

How can we focus living the spirit of the law which gives life and liberty?

Spencer W. Kimball

“There are many people in this Church today who think they live, but they are dead to the spiritual things. And I believe even many who are making pretenses of being active are also spiritually dead. Their service is much of the letter and less of the spirit.” (CR, April 1951)

James E. Faust

“Over the centuries dogmatism, coercion, and intolerance have too often polluted the living water of the gospel, which quenches our spiritual thirst eternally.... Paul said, ‘The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.’

“We are not only to avoid evil, not only to do good but, most importantly, to do the things of greatest worth. We are to focus on the inward things of the heart, which we know and value intuitively but often neglect for that which is trivial, superficial, or prideful.” (CR, Oct. 1997)

Ministry

2Cor 6:3-10

What traits do we need to be effective ministers of God?

D&C 4:2-7

2) Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

5) And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.

6) Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

7) Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.

Next Week:

September 18–24

2 Corinthians 8–13

“God Loveth a Cheerful Giver”

