

**DO RIGHT AND RELAX!**

or

**DON'T SECOND GUESS RIGHT DECISIONS**



**TEXT: 2 Corinthians 7:5-11**

**INTRO.:** A. The most famous quote of Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. was: *"DO RIGHT!"* When his son did wrong I sent him a letter each week for about 6 weeks with those two words: *"DO RIGHT!"* in very large letters. Another quote of Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. was *"It is never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right."* Doing wrong produces anxiety in the life of the believer. Doing right produces peace, or at least it should. We need to learn to **"DO RIGHT AND RELAX!"** And we should also live by the maxim: **"DON'T SECOND GUESS RIGHT DECISIONS."**

B. Paul was human (vss. 5, 8). Was he too harsh? (He wrote under inspiration of the Holy Ghost! And God doesn't make mistakes!) If even the great Apostle second guessed a right decision, assuredly guided by the Spirit of God, then I guess we might do at least that at times! That doesn't make it right of course, but it recognizes human weakness. And we are NOT Apostles, nor are all our decisions Spirit-led, even when we think they are! We need to be humble enough to admit our mistakes, even if we have to swallow our pride.

C. But though we will address these concerns, there are other nuggets to mine in this passage...

#### **I. CONCERN: V.5**

##### **A. Fightings: v.5a**

1. Ordinary people *"worry"*—preachers only get *"concerned;"* Paul was concerned.
2. He says his *"flesh had no rest"*—he was troubled, uneasy at best and because of the word *"flesh"* may have been experiencing some physical problems.

**ILLUS.:** Worry, fretting and pressure are the greatest enemies of the man of God in the ministry. The pressure is unrelenting. It takes its toll on one's physical and spiritual health. The man of God is still a man. He may walk with God, but he also must walk among men. It is easy to say **"DO RIGHT AND RELAX"** but not as easy to do so. Apparently the great Apostle Paul was spending some sleepless nights: *"...no rest."*

3. He was "...troubled on every side"—he couldn't escape the pressure.
4. There was disharmony among the Macedonian believers—"fightings."

**ILLUS.:** Paul not only had a deep concern over the response of the Corinthians over his first letter to them, but he was in the midst of Christian warfare in Philippi! When Paul lists all of his fleshly and spiritual testings he concludes with the words "...and) that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." To further describe his internal strife he adds "Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended and I burn not?" Here is the man of God who had such great victory over every conceivable physical trial, admitting that the things which ate at him the most were the daily burdens placed upon him by people—Christian people!

5. Of course there were also disturbances from the pagan unbelievers in Macedonia.

##### **B. Fears: v.5b**

1. But the "fightings" were external and he could handle them better than the *"fears"* within!
2. Here is the same Apostle who wrote that *"perfect love casteth out fear"* admitting that he had *"fears"* within.

- a. Behind the mask of confidence and boldness of many preachers are the fear of being misunderstood as to motives, decisions and desires.
- b. There are also fears concerning how you are perceived, how your preaching will be received, whether your counsel is 100% biblical, if you made the right decision.
- c. It is far easier to say **"DON'T SECOND GUESS RIGHT DECISIONS"** than to avoid doing so!

## II. COMFORT: v.6,7

**ILLUS.:** Thank the Lord that our Savior knows when we are fearful and fretful and faltering! It is at that time that the Lord sends some comfort our way. It may be from the *"still small voice"* within or from some flesh and blood brother without – as is the case here.

### A. The Reunion: v.6 (Titus' Coming)

1. Oh the comforting presence of a true friend – to provide company, conversation counsel and concern!

**ILLUS.:** God knew about His servants need right at that moment. He knew Paul was "cast down." And instead of sending an angel, he sends a friend! What a blessing to have someone to share your burdens. Often a preacher can't share his burdens with a church member, or someone within the ministry, but he can look to a preacher friend, who alone can enter into his grief, sadness, heartache, burden or predicament – because he too has been there.

To be a real comforter one must have a knowledge of the burden; possess the remedy and have tender sympathy. God often uses a man to comfort a man. Moses was comforted by Jethro, Hannah by Eli, David by Jonathan and Paul by Titus!

The mere fact that Titus would travel (no planes or even cars!) some 900+ miles to be by Paul's side in this critical time was a blessing!

### B. The Report: v.7 (Titus' Communication)

1. Titus relays the positive news concerning how the Corinthians had received his first letter.

**ILLUS.:** It is little wonder that Paul would be concerned about what he wrote. He rebuked them sharply and pointed out a number of their problems and advised them on a church disciplinary matter. He spoke to them about divisions in the church, their carnality, impurity, lack of good stewardship, immorality, legal problems, marital irregularities, hardness towards weaker brethren, failing to support men of God, abuses at the Lord's table, abuses of spiritual gifts, a lack of love, and even doctrinal deviations concerning the resurrection. His greatest fear concerned the matter of church discipline of one involved in immorality. He was concerned that they may perceive him too harsh or unloving or unkind. He longed for them to see his heart.

2. Titus' comforting report included the Corinthians complete turn about, willingness to do right and even their desire to see Paul again! No wonder he said *"I rejoiced the more!"*

## III. CORRECTION: v.8-10

### A. Paul Wrote With Sorrow: v.8a "...though I did repent" (cf. 2:4)

1. Paul was doing right by writing the first letter, but he was 2<sup>nd</sup> guessing his decision.
2. Here is the human side of a great man of God.

**ILLUS.:** Every preacher may do well to be sensitive to others to whom he is called to minister. We must be firm, but compassionate; act with conviction, coupled with understanding; be decisive, but not harsh; never compromise doctrine or principle, but compromise anywhere possible; never be demanding to get our way, but be ever seeking God's will.

Oliver Greene: *"A born again person should always have tenderness for the feelings of others. One who is spiritually minded should always fear lest, even though prompted by duty, he may say something too strong and cause the wrong feeling or produce the wrong effect upon another. We have no right to abuse the children of God, even though they have done wrong. Those who are spiritual, when they see something wrong in the life of a brother, should be careful not to rebuke him too sternly and drive him further from God."* Gal. 6:1

### B. Paul Was Not Sorry: v. 8b,9

1. He had made them sorry – a good thing! V.8a
2. He was not sorry – a good thing! V.8b
3. Repentance over wrong is right and its burden is brief. V.8c
4. Doing right is always right – even if the results appear wrong. V.9a

- a. The product was godly sorrow, i.e., sorrow from God! V.9b

b. The purpose was damage control.: v.9c

- 1) Godly sorrow is helpful and healing. V.10a
- 2) Worldly sorrow is temporary and damaging. V.10b

**ILLUS.:** The difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow is illustrated by David and Saul in the O.T. and by Peter and Judas in the N.T. Someone said that godly sorrow is sorrow over who you are and the sorrow of the world is sorrow over what you have done.

If you compare Judas & Peter you would think both were saved men, but they weren't! Both preached, performed miracles, spent 3 ½ years with our Lord, both baptized by John the Baptist. One ends up hanging himself, the other becomes the great Apostle to the Jews! Godly sorrow works genuine repentance, and worldly sorrow works death.

Real repentance is not just being sorry for what you have done, it is being sorrow for what you are. Many folks have spells of "crying in the chapel"& "please forgive me." It is "I've made a mess of things, I'm a failure, I wish I was dead, I quit." Then they blow their brains out or commit suicide by degrees via booze, drugs, etc. Godly sorrow says "I have never been any good; I'm no good now and at my best I am a failure...but from now on I'm going to trust you and walk with you." One tries to straighten things out himself; the other turns things over to God to straighten things out!

3) Godly sorrow is saving and strengthening. V.10

- a) At conversion it brings about deliverance from bondage to sin.
- b) Among believers it brings about deliverance from sins corruption & chastening.

**CONCL.:** Paul concludes this statement on repentance and godly sorrow with the concept of cleansing and clearing the conscience. V.11 In a series of "yeas" he lists the products of godly sorrow.

We need to learn to **"DO RIGHT AND RELAX!"** because doing so always has beneficial results in the long run. We also need to learn not to **"SECOND GUESS OUR RIGHT DECISIONS."**

Finally let me finish the quote of the late Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. **"DO RIGHT THOUGH THE STARS FALL!"** You won't be sorry!

