Session 7: Getting the Point Across!

Thoughts Are Sometimes Intermittent and Erratic …Sometimes Going from One Subject to Another!

Do your thoughts go from one experience to another… (While speaking on one subject it reminds you of another)?

  ***Quite often that happens to me.***

Paul’s thoughts are like that in our next study…

Love...Sternness…Joy…Expected Positive Outcome.

**2 Corinthians 6:11-7:4,** “We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 12We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also. 14Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” 17Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” 18And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” **7**Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. 3I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. 4I have spoken to you with great frankness; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.”

Paul speaks with the accents of purest love for the Corinthian believers.

* *Breaches are healed*
* *Quarrels are all made up*
* *Love reigns supreme*

***The phrase, “Our heart is wide open to you,” literally means, “Our heart is enlarged.”***

Remember this: Heat Makes All Things Expand….And the Warmth of Love Will Always Expand a Man’s Heart.

Paul makes a series of claims about himself:

* *He has wronged no one,*
* *He has corrupted no one,*
* *He has taken advantage of no one.*

Two great men of yesteryear…made similar statements:

1. ***Sir Walter Scott****—“I have unsettled no man’s faith, I have corrupted no man’s principles.”*
2. ***William Makepeace Thackeray****—Wrote a prayer in which he prayed that he:*
* *“Might never write a word inconsistent with the love of God…or the love of man,*
* *Might never propagate his own prejudices or pander to those of others,*
* *Might always speak the truth with his pen, and*
* *Might never be actuated by a love of greed.”*

# *Gerald Cumby*—

* *“Oh….that man (yes, Lord, even I) would make a resolve to live a life that would be pleasing to God.*
* *Oh….that man (yes, Lord, even I) would make a resolve to never cause another person to stumble.*
* *Oh….that man (yes, Lord, even I) would make a resolve to always be a voice of wisdom teaching right from wrong…according to the Word of God.*
* *Oh….that man (yes, Lord, even I) would be a light of good in this dark world.*
* *Oh….that I would leave this world as one who gave from his heart for the sake of Christ….not for worldly fame or worldly gain.*
* *Oh…that I would leave my family with fine jewels of wisdom and a love for the Lord that would never be shaken.”*

**ONLY ONE THING IS WORSE THAN SINNING ONESELF,**

**AND THAT IS TEACHING ANOTHER TO SIN.**

There can be no regret like the regret of having sent another on the wrong way.

It was Paul’s humble and contrite claim that his guidance and his influence had always been toward the best.

Sternness…in the middle of joy and love….

**Deuteronomy 22:10… “Do not plough with an ox and a donkey together.”**

**The idea:**

There are certain things which are fundamentally incompatible and were never meant to be brought together.

“It is impossible for the purity of the Christian and the pollution of the pagan to run in double harness.”

**Paul asked… “What has the Temple of God to do with idols?”**

**It is a challenge…Christians should keep themselves unspotted from the world…**

**The very essence of the history of Israel (God’s chosen people)…**

**The command/demand of God: “Get thee out!”**

**Abraham…. “Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father’s house.” Genesis 12:1**

**That was the warning that came to Lot before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:12-14)**

**There are things in the world with which the Christian cannot and dare not associate himself.**

It is difficult to realize just how many separations Christianity meant for the people who first accepted it:

* **Often it meant that a person had to give up his trade.**

Every person must decide for himself if he can take Christ with him to his daily work.

* **Often it meant that a man had to give up his social life.**

Many heathen feast were held in the temple of a god. This was the normal social life for Greeks, Romans…etc.

*A heathen feast would begin and end with the pouring of a cup of wine to the gods.*

*Could a Christian share in that? Or… must he get out and say good-bye to the social fellowship which used to mean so much to him?*

* **Often it meant that a man had to give up family ties.**

The pain of Christianity in the early years was the way it split families.

*A wife became a Christian and her husband might drive her from his house.*

*A husband became a Christian and his wife might leave him.*

*Sons and/or daughters became Christians and might find the door of the home shut and barred in their faces. (Disowned)….considered adulterers…shamed the family.*

**HOWEVER HARD IT MAY BE, IT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN TRUE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS A PERSON CANNOT DO AND BE A CHRISTIAN!**

***2 Corinthians 7:5—16,*** *“For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. 6But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever. 8Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. 12So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. 13By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. 14I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. 15And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. 16I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.”*

#### This is kind of a summary of what went on in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13…

 **Remember the circumstances…**

Things had gone wrong in Corinth. Paul made a flying visit…well, maybe an expedient visit (Donkey Airlines) which made matters worse…and it nearly broke Paul’s heart.

Paul dispatched a letter back to Corinth via Titus….a very stern and severe letter…

Paul worried about the outcome of the whole mess…and he was unable to rest at Troas (much work could have been done there)…but Paul went to meet Titus…somewhere in Macedonia…and learned that the Corinthians received the letter and…the breach was healed.

Have you ever written a letter or an email…and you wished you could have retrieved it??

Documents on paper…signatures on paper….can sometimes cause rifts in families, churches, and certainly on the job.

However….This passage tells us about Paul’s whole method and outlook on rebuke.

1. **He was quite clear that there came a time when rebuke was necessary.**
* *The man who seeks an easy peace finds in the end nothing but trouble,*
* *The man who allows a perilous situation to develop because he shrinks from dealing with it,*
* *The parent who exercises no discipline because he fears unpleasantness,*

*In the End…simply piles up greater trouble for himself.*

Trouble is like a disease. If it is dealt with at the right time, it can often easily be eradicated; if not, it can become an incurable growth.

1. **The last thing Paul wished or desired to do was to rebuke.**

He did it only under compulsion and commission…and took no pleasure whatever in inflicting pain.

**(3) Paul’s sole object in giving rebuke was to enable people to be what they ought to be.**

His rebuke was not to knock them down…but to lift them up;

*Not to discourage, but to encourage;*

*It was not simply to eradicate the evil, but to make the good grow.*

This passage also tells us about the three (3) great human joys:

1. **A breath of fresh joy of reconciliation, the healed breach and the mended quarrel.**

Remember…the breach between you and your parents…and the joy that came when all was well?

1. **There is the joy of seeing someone in whom you believe justifying that belief.**

Nothing brings so deep a satisfaction as to know that our children do well…because we had faith in them. “Well done, son or daughter, I knew you could do it…congratulations.”

1. **There is the joy of seeing someone you love welcomed and well treated.**

*That is why God loves to see his children do good…and are treated with respect.*

“Inasmuch as we do it to them, we do it to Him.”

This passage…distinguishes between Godly sorrow…and worldly sorrow.

* **A Godly sorrow produces a true repentance, and a true repentance is one which demonstrates its sorrow by its deeds.**
* **A worldly sorrow….is not really sorrow at all. It is not sorrow for its sin or for the hurt it may have cause others; it is only resentment that it has been found out.**

**God yearns for true repentance from his favorite creation….it is the only way to God…no other way to gain the inheritance God promised us!**

**In the early Church a man’s Christianity often meant that he had to get out from his job….**

**One of the most famous modern examples of this same thing was F.W. Charrington.**

He was the heir to a fortune made by brewing. He was passing a tavern one night. There was a woman waiting at the door. A man, obviously her husband, came out, and she was trying to keep him from going back in. With one blow of his fist the man knocked her to the ground with lip bleeding and out cold.

Charrington started forward and then he looked up. The name above the tavern was his own, and Charrington said, “with that one blow that man did not just knock his wife out, he also knocked me clean out of that business forever.” And he gave up his fortune he might have had, rather than touch money earned in such a way.

**“Be careful of the words you write to others when you giving them a piece of your mind…**

Because what they will think of you for the rest of their life will not be loving and kind.

They will pull out that letter you wrote to them every once in a while…just to justify their feelings about you,

It won’t matter if you asked for forgiveness, paid penitence, or tried to make up by buying them something new.

You are their enemy, a merciless tyrant, and one that doesn’t have sense to get out of the rain…

And for the rest of your life you will try with all your heart their friendship to regain.

***Before reacting to a chide, a “put down,” a negative comment about you…or even a lie…think, pray, think again, and then only react when you know that there might be a possible chance to resolve the issue and to bridge the gap between you and the perpetrator.***

***To put it very simply; before you react to a put-down or a negative comment…***

*THINK, PRAY, THINK AGAIN…AND THEN SAY!*

***Please note: This is not a call to be a pacifist in our dealings with man; it is a call to be “MORE LIKE JESUS.”***

***Remember…I think Jesus said to turn the other cheek.***

***Could it be??***

*Because of that memo that was written when you were feeling wronged many years ago…*

*Has caused heartaches and pain and has nearly drove you insane … and suddenly you realize…we surely do reap what we sow!*