

Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Accepting the Repentant

It seems that this concept — that sin is tremendously destructive — is hard to grasp. Over and over again mankind plunges into its depths and continues to pay the price of ruined lives and destroyed relationships, let alone the unseen cost of separation from God. Even Christians can fall into sin's traps, as the scripture warns the saints: "Each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust," was James' commentary. "Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." Having made this stern, stern warning, the elder in Jerusalem's church added, "Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren" (James 1:14-16). Sin had worked deceptively and destructively in Corinth, so much

so that Paul had to take matters into his own hand. Concerning the congregation's refusal to deal with a situation wherein a man had his father's wife, Paul had written, "I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh" (1 Corinthians 5:5). And he had superadded, "Remove the wicked man from among yourselves" (1 Corinthians 5:13). The congregation had assembled and followed Paul's instructions, the goal being "that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

- ◆ **Bringing back the repentant** — Paul explains that he had written to the congregation, "not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you." Having introduced his point, the apostle uses the issue of "sorrow" to bring up the delicate point of welcoming back the individual who had so grievously sinned as recorded in the first epistle. "But if any has caused sorrow," is his gambit, "he has caused sorrow not to me, but to some degree — in order not to say too much — but to you all" (2 Corinthians 2:5). There are a couple of key points here that are worth noting for modern Christians and congregations. Notice that Paul is making certain that the issue with the man who sinned is not a personal issue, and the way he does that is by pointing out that the sorrow is not to him alone, but to the whole congregation as well. The second thing he does is to say that the sorrow was in "some degree", with the appending words "in order not to say too much." In this way the sin of the past has been acknowledged, but the way is now clear to move past that and into the next phase of solving the problem.

- ◆ **Past punishment sufficient** — The man involved in the sinful situation had been "delivered to Satan for the destruction of his flesh" and had been removed from the congregation. What the "destruction of the flesh" was, we do not have enough information to determine. But the combination of these two was sufficient to bring the man to his senses and he earnestly desired to be back in the fellowship of the congregation. The instructions following were significant not only to Corinth, but they also show how modern congregations are to handle similar issues should they arise. "Sufficient for such a one is the punishment which was inflicted by the majority," is his serious admonition, "so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow" (2 Corinthians 2:6,7). These behests by the apostle show the care necessary for the struggling saint, the execution of the desire of Jesus that no smoldering wick be put out, or battered reed be broken off (Matthew 12:20).

The leadership of the congregation would really need to set the tone in welcoming back this individual. They would need to "restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, looking to themselves, lest they too be tempted" (Galatians 6:1), while at the same time intelligently monitoring the progress of the penitent, making sure that he did not fall back into the same proclivities. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

JAY WILSON

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in time of trouble



Moriano Lopez, positively proud of his gingerbread house
part of Bible school lesson
Christ's Church
Butte, MT

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears
My word, and believes Him who sent Me,
has eternal life, and does not come into
judgment, but has passed out of death into
life."

John 5:24

January 21, 2018!

Christ's Church

Meeting at
30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman
Comfort Inn — Butte

MORNING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 8:45 a.m.

Opening — Jay Wilson, Josiah Sutton

M.C. — Bob Edgar

Prayer meditation — Ed Donohue

Communion Meditation — Rick Vaught

Preaching — Jay Wilson

EVENING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 7:00 p.m., **Butte - 7:30 p.m.**

M.C. — Phil Sutton, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Nick Kover, **Abram McDunn**

Preaching — Matt Wilson, **Jay Wilson**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chili and Corn Bread cookoff — Combined with monthly fellowship and potluck, Lord's Day Jan. 28 right after assembly

Bible Bowl — Sat., March 10, 2018

Ladies' Advance — April 19-21, Hampton Inn, Great Falls, MT

Men's PEAKS — Thurs. - Sat. July 19-21, 2018 at Delmo Reservoir

Family Camp 2018 — Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2018 at Bozeman church property



FOR THE PRESENT FORM OF
THIS WORLD IS PASSING AWAY.
1 CORINTHIANS 7:31

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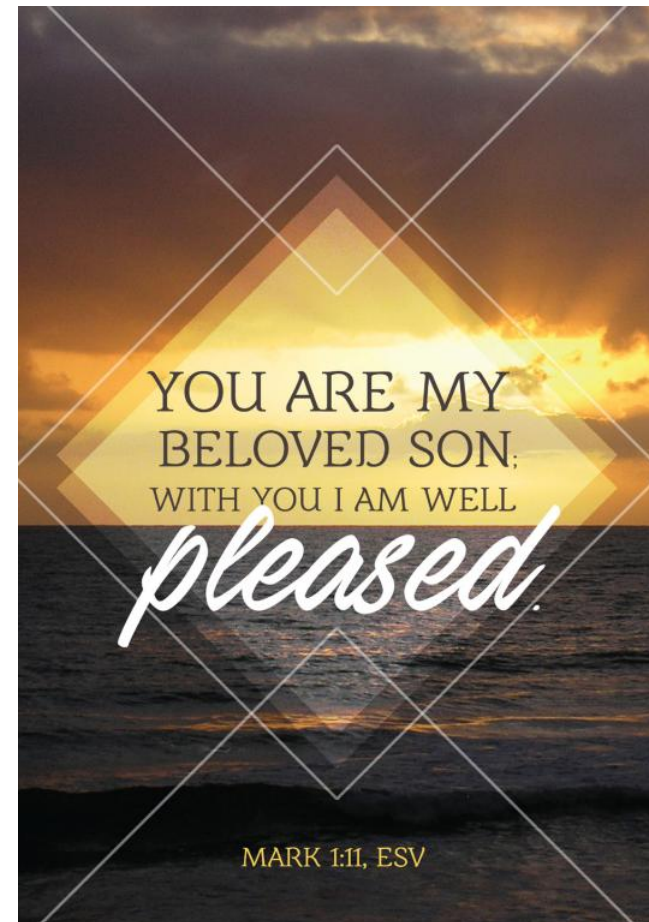
christchurchonline.com

Also check out the youtube videos on
targetingtruth.com

and audios at innermanradio.org

This Wednesday, Jan. 24th —

7:00 p.m. — Some enlightenment from Ephesians — Phil Sutton



Question of the week:

What does the term “kingdom of heaven” in the parable of the treasure hidden in the field represent?

Last week's question: What was the name of the fourth son of Jacob's wife Leah? *Answer: Judah (Genesis 29:35).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School — 81
Morning Assembly — 108
Evening Assembly — 58

Wednesday Night (1/17) — 71
Butte Lord's Day — 16
Great Falls Lord's Day — 46,77