

A Grief that gives Hope

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

I. Introduction

II. Pursue godly grief for it leads to salvation and godly change.

A. Am I rightfully grieving?

It is possible for sorrow to have nothing at all to do with God...The sorrow of the world, the sense of remorse, the sense of failure, the sense of defeat ...that kind of sorrow leads to despair and unbelief. It often leads to an attempt at reformation, saying, "It's never going to happen again!" ... That kind of sorrow leads to death.

-Alan Redpath

Prov 15:13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

When (godly) sorrow sin has swept over your heart, and you have been deeply convicted of that which you have done and you have cried like David, "Against you, you only, have I sinned." When you have seen your sin not simply as an offence against the law of the land or a rejection of the voice of conscience, but as sin against God...when your heart is broken about it, (who) will you be facing?

-Alan Redpath

James 4:8-10 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

B. Am I genuinely repenting?

This verse lists seven characteristics of the purity true repentance produces and provides the clearest definition of repentance anywhere in Scripture. Paul introduced those characteristics with the exclamatory phrase 'for behold' which indicated his overwhelming exhilaration.

-John MacArthur

2 Tim. 2:25,26 ...God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Matthew 3:8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

C. Am I sincerely believing?

Mark 1:14,15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Repentance hand-in-hand with faith leads a man into the presence of a crucified Christ from whom peace will come immediately into the darkest and lowliest of hearts. It is not my repentance but His death that is the ground of my salvation... There is no true repentance which does not lead you to a complete trust in a crucified, risen Savior and committal of your life to Him.
-Alan Redpath

1 Thess. 1:9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

III. Conclusion