

Word from Titus

2 Corinthians 1:12 – 2:13

2 Corinthians 7:5-16

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Paul sent his severe letter to the Corinthians in the care of Titus, who was to meet up with him again later. Paul left Ephesus and traveled north along the western coast of Asia Minor to Troas. There he found a very receptive response to the good news. But Paul was preoccupied, wanting to hear from Titus about the Corinthian situation. Titus had yet to arrive. So finally, Paul said goodbye to the people of Troas and set out for Macedonia, hoping to run into Titus along the way.

Meanwhile, the believers in Corinth welcomed Titus warmly and respectfully. However, Paul's letter was distressing. It was painful to be chastised like that. But their pain led them to turn back to God. It produced eagerness to do what is right, indignation and alarm at what had happened, passionate longing for God, and a readiness for justice. Even the man primarily responsible for their "rebellion" against Paul saw the error of his ways and asked forgiveness.

Titus left Corinth and went north through Macedonia. He and Paul found each other. Titus told him what had happened in Corinth, adding, "They look forward to seeing you again; they're sorry for what happened; and they're very concerned about you."

Paul was overjoyed. In dealing with others, he had always conducted himself frankly, honestly, and with pure motives. This had paid off with the Corinthian believers. Paul now felt complete confidence in them. He wrote an encouraging letter assuring them he would visit soon. He sent Titus back to Corinth with his letter while he remained behind to deal with all the troubles he had been facing since his arrival in Macedonia.