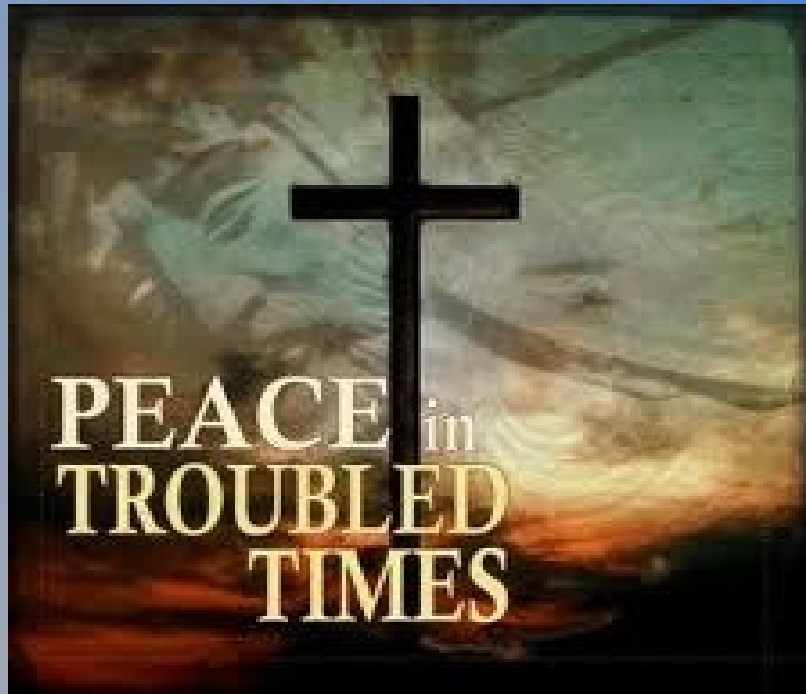


***Good Morning and Welcome!
The New Testament Epistle of
II Corinthians!***



Our Text This Morning:

II Corinthians 7:2-16!

The Title:

God Always Opens an Umbrella!



The Outline of the Book!

I. (1:1-2) Paul's INTRODUCTION!

II. (1:3-12:18) Paul's INSTRUCTION!

A. (1:3–5:21) Paul's COMMISSION.

B. (6:1-9:15) Paul's CONVERTS.

C. (10:1-12:18) Paul's CRITICS.

III. (12:19-13:14) Paul's Closing ISSUES!

Outline Second Section!

I. (1:3-5:21) Paul's **COMMISSION!**

II. (6:1-9:15) Paul's **CONVERTS!**

A. (6:1-7:16) Their **FAITHFUL** Partnership in the Gospel!

1. (6:1-7:1) Paul **ENLISTED** the Faithful.

2. (7:2-16) Paul **ENLIGHTENS** the Faithful.

B. (8:1-9:15) Their **FINANCIAL** Partnership in the Gospel!

The Introduction to the Book!

Last week Paul set two commands before us with the hope of helping us fulfill our calling as ambassadors for Christ. And he did it in the most forceful and straight-forward way he knew how – Imperative + Negative!

- 1. (6:1) When gathered together / seek unity!**
- 2. (6:14) When scattered apart / seek separation!**

This morning Paul will build upon these two principles. His teaching this morning is simple. When we as ambassadors are obedient to our calling, God sometimes opens an umbrella for us to stand under to get out of the rain!

The Outline for the Second Section!

I. (1:3-5:21) Paul's **COMMISSION!** Defends His Ministry and Message!

II. (6:1-9:15) Paul's **CONVERTS!** Encourages the Saved and Sanctified to Serve as Ambassadors of Christ!

A. (6:1-7:1) Their **FAITHFUL** Partnership in the Gospel!

1. (6:1-7:1) Paul **ENLISTS** the Faithful:

a. (6:1-4a) The call to **SERVE.**

b. (6:4b-13) The call to **SUFFER.**

c. (6:14-18) The call to **SEPARATION.**

d. (7:1) The call to **SANCTIFICATION.**

2. (7:2-16) Paul **ENLIGHTENS** the Faithful!

The Outline for the Second Section!

I. (1:3-5:21) Paul's **COMMISSION!**

II. (6:1-9:15) Paul's **CONVERTS!**

A. (6:1-7:1) Their **FAITHFUL** Partnership
in the Gospel!

1. (6:1-7:1) Paul **ENLISTS** the Faithful!

2. (7:2-16) Paul **ENLIGHTENS** the Faithful:

a. (7:2-7) As to his **Present** condition.

b. (7:8-16) As to his **Previous** correspondence.

B. (8:1-9:15) Their **FINANCIAL** Partnership
in the Gospel!

The Setting for the Section!

Thinking that a division may occur between his critics and his converts upon his arrival in Corinth, Paul makes an appeal for them to be unified in Christ's love. His plea is for them to reflect the love of Christ so that the people of Corinth might witness the power of Christ's love in their lives (when gathered together / when scattered apart / when Paul arrives in Corinth).

Evidently Paul still felt the need to defend himself against the serious accusations being made against him by his critics. So while traveling to Corinth from Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, he prepares for the discussion that he believes will take place upon his arrival. His goal is for them to see Christ's love for Paul during times of conflict, so that they will be witnesses of Christ's love (upon Paul's arrival) before the unsaved at Corinth.

This Morning's Outline!

I. (7:2-16) Paul **ENLIGHTENS** the Faithful!

A. (7:2-7) Focus: Paul's **PRESENT** Condition.

1. (vs.2-4b) Paul **Defends** himself.

a. (v.2a) Paul's **Request**.

b. (vs.2b-4b) Paul's **Reason**.

2. (vs.4c-7) Paul **Declares** himself.

a. (vs.4c-6) Comfort in **Tribulation**.

1.) (v.4c) His personal **Triumph**.

2.) (vs.5-6) His passing **Troubles**.

b. (v.7) Comfort in the **Tidings** he heard.

B. (7:8-16) Focus: Paul's **PREVIOUS** Correspondence!

This Morning's Outline!

I. (7:2-16) Paul ENLIGHTENS the Faithful!

A. (7:2-7) Focus: Paul's PRESENT Condition.

1. (vs.2-4b) Paul Defends himself.

a. (v.2a) Paul's Request.

Since we are called (as ambassadors) to be unified in love and to be separated from the world, apply this calling to us when we arrive in Corinth.

b. (vs.2b-4b) Paul's Reason.

1. (v.2b) Look at my life: We wronged no one / 2:17 money.

2. (v.3) Look at my love: We corrupted no one / 4:2 deception.

3. (v.4a-b) Look at my loyalty: We took advantage of no one /
6:3 no cause of offense.

This Morning's Outline!

I. (7:2-16) Paul **ENLIGHTENS** the Faithful!

A. (7:2-7) Focus: Paul's **PRESENT** Condition.

1. (vs.2-4b) Paul **Defends** himself.

2. (vs.4c-7) Paul **Declares** himself.

a. (vs.4c-6) Comfort in **Tribulation**.

1.) (v.4c) His personal **Triumph**.

2.) (vs.5-6) His passing **Troubles**.

b. (v.7) Comfort in the **Tidings** he heard.

This Morning's Outline!

I. (7:2-16) Paul **ENLIGHTENS** the Faithful!

A. (7:2-7) Focus: Paul's **PRESENT** Condition.

B. (7:8-16) Focus: Paul's **PREVIOUS**
Correspondence.

1. (vs.8-11) Paul's Outpouring of **Grief**.

a. (vs.8-9) Paul makes no Apology.

b. (vs.10-11) Paul has no Apathy.

2. (vs.12-16) Paul's Outpouring of **Grace**.

a. (v.12) The Reason for the letter.

b. (vs.13-15) The Result of the letter.

c. (v.16) The Rejoicing at the end of the letter.

Lessons Learned from Today's Message!

The next time you find yourself standing in the rain: stop, look, and listen. Most often God is speaking in a still and quiet voice, not in the booms of thunder or the flashing of lightening!



Lessons Learned from Today's Message!

When things don't go as planned stop feeling sorry for yourself or blaming others. Instead look for lessons to be learned. Let God put a song in your heart. Just listen to the lyrics!



Lessons Learned from Today's Message!

Psalm 40:1-3a!

I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. And He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

