

Daily Devotional

May 17, 2005

(Contributed by Rod Keen)

Theme: Godly Sorrow

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 NIV

Yet 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. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See 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.

Thought:

Once, as a young child when acting in a rebellious manner, I hurt my mothers feelings. She showed her disappointment and really didn't seem too willing to forgive and forget. When it really sunk in, I was devastated! I begged her to forgive me with tears of sorrow and remorse -- I couldn't stand the thought that I had actually hurt her that much. Fortunately she finally relented, forgave, and the hug followed. Boy, was I relieved!

Have you ever felt this way towards God? Consider how bad it hurts His feelings when we defiantly disobey Him. How does He feel when He has expected us to do something and we don't do it? How disappointed to you suppose He is when we rebel against His will? I know there have been times when I unthinkingly put my own concerns ahead of His; times when it would be a great inconvenience for me to do what He has asked.

What do you do when you realize you have acted in a rebellious manner toward God? Do you just assume that He doesn't care, or that He will forgive and overlook our disappointing ways? Well, think again! Take some time to read how God dealt with rebellion and disappointment in the past. God hurts! He is no different than we are on that count. Maybe we should be approaching Him with tears and pleading!