2 Corinthians 7:1

Intro: Paul teaches the separation that is to be between the Christian and the world in the latter part of 2 Corinthians 6, with the resultant promises. Upon these promises Paul urges him to cleanse himself and live a holy lives before God (2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”). In this lesson let us study this beautiful verse of exhortation.

I. Promises.

A. Of Pardon and Reconciliation.
   1. Rom. 5:8-10 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
   2. Eph. 2:13 “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

B. Of Strength and Help.
   1. 1 Cor. 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”
   2. 2 Cor. 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
   3. Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
   4. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

C. Of God as a Father
   1. Mat. 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
   2. Rom. 8:14-17 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”
   3. 2 Cor. 6:17-18 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

II. Cleanse Ourselves From Filthiness.

A. Of the flesh.
   1. Eph. 2:1-3 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
   2. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
B. Of the spirit.
   1. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
   2. Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
   3. Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

III. PERFECTING HOLINESS.
   A. Means to “be set apart.”
      1. Had reference to altars that had been built above or apart from the world and thus being dedicated to the service of God.
      2. Has reference to God as being one who is free of sin.
      3. When speaking of man it combines these two meanings; as one who has been freed from sin and then dedicated to the service of God.
   B. In the Fear of God.
      1. Being afraid of God.
         a. Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
         b. Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
      2. Thus, having the proper respect for God.
         a. Heb. 12:28 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”
         b. When we have this respect we will obey what God has said.

Conclusion: Will you receive these precious promises? The only way to receive them is to cleanse ourselves and live holy lives. If you are not, will you do start today?