

Righting Wrongs

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 29 January 2025

Preacher: Rich Pfeffer

[0 : 00] You can turn your Bibles to 2 Corinthians chapter, I believe it's chapter 9, we'll be going there in a little bit, 7, I'm sorry, 7.

You know, Pastor asked me to preach, I don't know, maybe a week ago or so, and am I on? Is it good? Okay, and you know, I know the Bible talks about I conferred not with flesh and blood, you know, and all that.

But what I did was I was in my chair, and I just said, Lord, okay, I'm not going to do my regularly scheduled program. I'm going to seek the Lord's face on what to do.

And two sermons came to my mind, just like that. I wrote them down, and they haven't changed. So you're getting one right now. And you know, it's like this. I don't think I'm anybody special.

I'm nobody, I'm not, I'm not, you know, Mr. Spiritual. And it's either one of two things. It's either I got it right, or I got it wrong. Right? That's all. I gave it my best shot.

[1 : 02] I don't know, I'm trying to hear. I'm trying to hear. So writing wrongs, you know, we, I know, you know, we would rather, we would rather the thing didn't happen.

Right? We would rather it just kind of go away. I think that's what we'd rather do. I mean, I know, I live, I'm just like you, but we'd rather, you know, when that, when something happens, we would rather just let it go away.

You know, this is, I was thinking, I don't know that I have ever heard a message from this passage that we're going to look at.

I don't know if I ever have, but I, you know, 40 years, maybe I have, but this, this, what I'm going to be talking to you about is going to be, I'm going to give you something practical. That will really help you in your Christian life, I believe.

And this, this is going to go in, in, in one of my, I got a, I got a list of things. It's not really big, but it's just, it's just several things. And it's, and it's things I've learned in 40 years.

[2 : 04] This one is one of them. This one is one of them. The offense, the offender, the one offended and the one who takes offense. So the offense is your sin.

And we go through a couple of scenarios here. You are the offender. God is the one who's offended against or somebody else. You know, Luke chapter 15, I believe it's first 21.

I'm not going to go to that one, but that's where the prodigal son comes home. Right. And he goes, he goes, I believe he said, I sinned against heaven and in your sight. Okay. He's covered both of them.

So the, the offended. And then he, that is he, he, that takes offense. So that's the, that's like a bystander. That's like a secondary person.

That's somebody else who ends up involved, whether he wants to or not. Now God is offended, but he's not offended as, uh, you know, Psalms 119, 165 says, great peace of they would love thy law and nothing shall offend them.

[3 : 07] This is not the same thing. Uh, God is not offended. God doesn't get, uh, weird when you bother him. He's, he's well able to, uh, uh, stand emotionally, but he, he doesn't have that problem.

We do, but the offense still takes place and the offense still happens and people are still offended in, in, in the way that it happened.

Right. I can't change the fact that it happened. It happened. And, and, uh, and you're probably got one coming to your mind right now. And if you don't, and you can't remember one, you will someday.

I'm telling you, I got a list of them. I got a list of them. And, uh, you know, you got to try not to fall in that, uh, get an offended category, even though an offense has been made. I wish I could read half my writing.

Uh, this, I believe that this scenario happens in, uh, most churches on a regular basis. This into the foreign concept, this is going on all the time.

[4 : 22] And it makes sense. We think about it. Um, you know, the average person in church, you know, don't raise your hand. Don't tell me what you think, but, uh, you know, how many people would you think are really the, the, the spiritual ones in church?

I mean, what would be the percentage? Don't tell me, but you're probably not going to say the majority. Right. You would probably say, I mean, I remember pastor Walski preaching and saying, well, carnal.

Right. He just put it right out there. None of us are spiritual basically. So I'm not going to go that far, but. But, but the point I'm trying to make is let's hope somebody's spiritual. Let's hope, let's hope I'm being spiritual right now.

But, uh, you know, um, the idea is that most people, most people are not on that plane. So you can mark it down. If you fall into that corner category, it says that the, what does it say about carnality? Envy, strife, and division. It's going to happen. It's going to happen. Offenses are going to happen. Try not to let it be you.

[5 : 31] And I can't read that. Okay. The offense. You try that. You know, it's just what happens. I don't know how to fix it. I'm way too old to fix it.

Right. This is the way all of them are. It's just the way it works. All right. The offense is what was done. The offender is who did it. The one offended against is the one directly involved and the one directly or indirectly involved may or may or may not be offended.

Is anybody with me? Okay. A couple of people understand what I'm talking about. Okay. I haven't lost everybody. I know. If you get one thing, get that we're talking about offend.

All right. Just remember that word. One more time with feeling. The offense was to sin or trespass. Now I'm saying trespass because, you know, sin is something you got to get with God and this person.

Trespass against me might be something you did against me, but it's not necessarily a sin where you got to go to God and say, God, you just did me wrong somehow.

[6 : 40] Okay. Not going to go too far into that. Okay. So the offense was a sin or the trespass. The offender is the one who commits the sin or the trespass. Right.

The offended against is the one directly involved. He's the one that directly gets offended against. And the one who takes offense is that brother Mark there who got in on it and said, hey, man, that wasn't right.

Let me give you an illustration. Personal one. I got a list of them. But I'll give you this one. This is when I was lost. I was a kid. I was 13 years old and I was walking down the street minding my business and I had done nothing wrong at that point.

Just right that day for that few minutes. But I didn't do anything wrong. Definitely not to this guy. Some guy pulls up in a car. I'm 13. You know, he's at least he's driving.

He pulls up in the car. He comes out and he is. He's coming my way. And he's got it in for me. I don't know what's going on. But he's heading right to me. He backs me up against the wall.

[7 : 39] And he's in my face. I don't know what this guy is going to do to me. And lo and behold, my brother comes around the corner. Now, my brother is only a year and a half older than me.

But my brother come around the corner with a gallon of milk and a gallon of water. And he just lost it. He threw that on the ground. He got so far in this guy's face. He drove him right back to his car. So, this guy that was in that car is the offender. I didn't do anything wrong. I look like, I got one of them faces, you know.

People say, hey, I remember you. I knew you from here. You look like so and so. Whatever. I remember my neighborhood. They used to call me a different name. People for sure thought I was somebody else.

I'm like, I'm sorry. I'm not that guy. Yes, you are. I'm telling you, I'm not. So, this guy was the offender. I'm the one who got offended. My brother coming around the corner, he took offense.

[8 : 37] So, the offender committed an offense. I was the one who received this offense. My brother took interest in that offense. Okay, whether he took interest or not, he got involved.

That makes sense, right? It just happens, right? I can remember other ones where, you know, somebody told me this. I reported it like I should have. It was an offense that somebody did.

And this person just wasn't working with it. So, I had an offense from an offender that offended somebody. But it didn't get fixed.

It lingered. And this offense lingered. What I want to tell you tonight is, you need to get the offense fixed. Remember what the title was. It was long.

The offender. The offense. The one offended against. And the one who takes offense. Or, simply, righting wrongs. Righting wrongs. Okay?

[9 : 41] If you get one thing tonight. Look at 2 Corinthians chapter 7. And I want to just look at verse 11 for a second. We'll look at this passage in a minute. But for us.

2 Corinthians chapter 7. Let's pray. Father, I am thankful for my salvation. I'm thankful for thy word. And I pray tonight that you would bless thy people.

And help us consider these things. About offenses. When we commit offenses against someone. Lord, we would try to fix these things.

Because they're not going away. Please bless thy people tonight. And store our hearts in Jesus' name. Amen. So, in 2 Corinthians chapter 7.

And verse 11. Just, I want to look at the end of the verse. And it says, In all things, ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

[10 : 37] If you get one thing tonight. You remember one thing tonight. Obviously, you're going to remember the word offend. Right? I'm going to say it 5,000 times. But if you remember one thing. Remember this. You need to clear it.

This person we're going to be looking at. Was clear in this matter. It needs to be cleared. Okay. I'm going to give you a just a. I'm going to try to keep it to where it's not going to. I don't think anybody's going to be able to relate to this. I'm going to use an illustration of a husband and wife. And if you can't relate to a husband and wife.

Use your brother or your sister. Or a friend or an acquaintance. Okay. Did I cover everything? I think I got everything there. So, you can definitely relate. So, the husband offends his wife.

She has a piece of chocolate. Need I say any more? She has a piece of chocolate in the drawer. And he knew he didn't put it there.

[11 : 38] Doesn't even consider her putting it there. And he eats it. Capital punishment. Right? She goes to eat it.

It isn't there. He committed an offense. She's the one that's offended against. He's the offender. You know, the Bible says.

I get it. The Bible says. It doesn't say. Love covers a multitude of sin. I think there's twice. Covers. And there's another verse. There's two verses on it. In the Bible.

James 5. 20. And 1 Peter 4. 8. And. Oh, I think the other one said. It hides. Hides a multitude of sin. It doesn't forgive it.

It puts a cover over it. See. I can love. And my wife would love me. And. And. And. And. And if that chocolate was missing. And.

[12 : 38] And she would. She would. She would love me enough. With that would. She would cover that. It would cover. But it ain't going away. It needs to be cleared.

You say. That's silly. I'm just trying to give you an illustration. Hopefully. Nobody's going through here. Huh? If you are. I'm sorry. It's going to be a rough night.

All right. So it doesn't. It doesn't. Forgive it. Or clear it. It puts a cover on it. So nobody sees it. If I may. There may be. There may be others. That are not directly involved. That hear.

That I ate my wife's chocolate. They may come to me. And go. Hey. You need to get right about that. That's not right. How about.

[13 : 37] How about maybe her brother. Her brother. You. You took Linda's chocolate. Man. That's not. That's not cool. She got offended. She's not happy.

What would you do. I mean. It was. Here's a smart thought about this today. The smart thing. Would you just get. Get right out the door. Go to the store. Buy some more chocolate. Put it there. I'm sorry. Right.

Get it. Just get it done now. Not. You know what. She needs to get over it. And you know. She's just real sensitive. Right. That's what happens. Isn't it. That's what happens.

Isn't it. And then we walk away. We're fine. That's not. Come on. It's just. You know. Come on. Working our way backwards. Whether she decides to be offended or not.

She was offended against. He did commit an offense. And he is the offender. She deciding not to be offended. Doesn't clear the guilty.

[14:34] I understand. I'm using this. I'm using a simple example. Love may cover it. But it's not clearing it. I mean.

We're talking about chocolate. I get it. Anybody like chocolate besides me? I mean. I am. I'm all about chocolate. You just can't go on.

Doing those things. Building up your account. Right. I'm thankful for. The circumcision. Made without hands. God's operation on me.

Where I don't have an account. I have to worry about. I'm. I'm. I'm sinless. In God's eyes. Because of. The circumcision. Look at Matthew chapter 18.

Matthew chapter 18. Talks about the offenses. Matthew chapter 18. And look at verse 7. It says.

[15:34] Woe unto the world. Because of offenses. For it must needs be. That offenses come. But woe to that man. By whom the offense cometh.

Okay. Offenses are not good. It's not. It's not what you want to be doing. So.

How does it get cleared? How does it get cleared? Everybody together. You're saying. You're saying. Well. You didn't tell us. I get it.

I get it. But really. What came to your mind was. Replace the chocolate. Apologize. Repent. Ask forgiveness. Right.

I mean. That's just like. Everybody thinks that. But not everybody does it. Not everybody does it. You know.

[16:34] You could have said it. A lot of different ways. But you need to right. The wrong. The best way you can. And I know. I'm using that kind of. That a little facetiously. Because. You need to be doing it biblically.

Right. But you know. You know. In the Bible. It says. In the multitude of counselors. There is safety. Right. So if you don't know. Exactly what to do. You can ask some counselors. Now. If you happen to have a list.

Of all the wrong counselors. That's not going to make. The Bible wrong. Okay. The Bible says. In the multitude of counselors. There is safety. Here's what I'm talking about. The guy's in a motorcycle gang.

Okay. He's got 30 other bikers. With him. And he. Asked each one of them. How to handle a problem. How do you think. That's going to work out. That doesn't make the Bible wrong. Right. This guy joins the Marines. He goes to boot camp. And he's in boot camp. With a bunch of other ones. In there. And he's got 30 of them. In his unit. And he has a question. And he starts asking each one of those. Instead of the platoon leader.

[17:32] How do you think. That's going to work out for him. Probably not so good. That doesn't make the Bible wrong. Right. The Bible says. In the multitude of counselors. There is safety. Find the right ones.

It's not that difficult. All right. Second Corinthians. Chapter 7. Second Corinthians.

Chapter 7. This happens to come after chapter 6. So if you decided later to read it. You'd read what went on in chapter 6. But in chapter 7 here.

We're going to. I want to start in verse 6. Let me get to the right place. All right. Second Corinthians. Chapter.

Seven. Start in verse 6. Nevertheless. God that comforted. Those that are cast down. Comforted us by the coming of Titus. And not by his coming only.

[18:30] But by the consolation. Wherewith he was comforted in you. When he told us your earnest desire. Your mourning. Your fervent mind toward me.

So that I rejoiced the more. For though I made you sorry with the letter. So Titus comes back. And tells him. Hey Paul. You're not going to believe this. This is probably what happened.

I don't know. But he tells Paul. Things are good back there. And Paul's like. Wow. I didn't see that coming. I don't know. But. He's comforted.

And. And it was a lot of that going on. It was good. It says in verse 8. For though I made you sorry with the letter. I do not repent. Though I did repent.

Right. So Paul's writing him this letter going. Man. I wish I hadn't done that. That was. That was. That was rough man. When I read that back to myself. I went. Whoa. You know.

[19 : 27] I don't know if you've ever done that. You. You. You. You send an email. I just. What I do. I email. I did one today. I sent an email. And I read it again. And I went. No. They're not going to take that right.

And I. Went back and redid it. You know. So Paul wrote them a letter. And. You know. I don't know. Maybe he looked back at it. And went. Whoa. That was pretty rough. But. You know. I did it. And. He said.

He didn't repent about it. But he did repent. For I perceive. That the same epistle. Hath made you sorry. Though it were but for a season.

So. Hey. That. That. That's the way it happens sometimes. And that's okay. He says. Now I rejoice not that you were made sorry. But that you sorrowed to repentance. For you were made sorry. After a godly manner. That you might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. Not to be repented of. But the sorrow of this world worketh death.

[20 : 23] For behold this same thing. That you sorrowed after a godly sort. What carefulness it wrought in you. Yea. What clearing of yourselves. Yea.

What indignation. Yea. What fear. Yea. What vehement desire. Yea. What zeal. Yea. What revenge. In all things. You have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Did you. Did you pick up on the word sorry. Sorrow. Right. That's mentioned there. I think I wrote it down six times. Six times in two verses. If you do something.

When you're going through this chapter. Pay attention to the word. Mentioned six times. In two verses. He's not wasting his time. Writing it down every time. Paul dedicates.

This whole chapter. To this idea. You know. It's only 13 chapters in 2nd Corinthians. He takes one out to do this. Probably important.

[21 : 24] Huh. 1st Corinthians. You got 1st Corinthians 13. Talks about charity. Right. You got. I think it's 15 chapters in 1st Corinthians. He took one whole one out. To discuss charity.

Which is a good thing. Because we see today. That. You can't find that in a whole lot of Bibles. And. I'm glad he's got all the explanation for it. In. In that chapter. I'm glad he did that. In here in 2nd Corinthians 7.

This person. It says. It says. You know. You're looking at verse 11. And it's like. For behold. This self. Same thing. That she sorrowed after godly. So. What carefulness.

It was. Yea. What clearing of yourselves. Yea. What. He's got like six words. He describes this. He's like. He's going on. This person. Didn't play games.

This person. Didn't pass the buck. Maybe they did before. This person. Didn't do. Like Adam and Eve. Right. This is a tendency.

[22 : 29] What you. What you're seeing. About. The offense. The offender. The one offended. And the one who takes offense. Is. Is that. That is something. We.

We do this by nature. Right. We don't want to. Fix it. By nature. We want. Everybody else. To fix it. You fix it.

You fix yourself. I'm a special case. I am justified.

For why I did it. You got to love those. The church is full of it. Full. I bet.

Scott. How long have you been pastoring? I bet he's got. A list of them. I bet he could write a book. No.

[23 : 27] No. They weren't special. They humbled themselves. They realized they were wrong. They repented. And got it fixed. They were wrong. And got it fixed.

In their mind and heart. See. If you don't fix it. It doesn't get cleared. Remember that. If you don't get it cleared.

If you don't get it cleared. And let's say. In a timely manner. It's. It's rough folks.

It's going to. It's. It's. The fallout from that thing. It'll probably never be the same. I got one of those right now. Close to me. And I'm.

[24 : 30] I'm in the fallout. And I knew it was coming. And I said. If you don't. If you don't deal with this like this. This is going to blow this relationship. The kingdom come. And it did.

And it's. It's. You know. There's a little bit mended. But it ain't much. It's gone. Because. It was. It was not cleared.

It was. And it wasn't even love covering a multitude of sin. It was just covering. It was just somebody throwing a blanket on it. That ain't going to work.

You ain't never going to be cleared with that. Never. I have seen that.

The faster. You clear it up. The less fallout. All right. The. The. The longer you take. The more people that get involved.

[25 : 29] The more hurt. The further. The less repairable that relationship is going to be. I'm telling you. I'm telling you. But the faster you do it.

The less people that get hurt. The less time it was involved there. The less the offense gets to build. And. What did the Bible say. Less than any root.

Root of bitterness. Springing up trouble you. And you know what. It's going to happen. As much as you don't want it to. You wish it didn't.

And you're going to be dealing with it. Just the way it is. Just the way it is. You know. 30 years ago. 25 years ago.

I wrote down. 10 years ago. I didn't really understand this fully. How was it cleared.

[26 : 27] How was it cleared. That's what he said happened. Right. He said at the end of verse 11. He says. He says. In all things. You have approved yourselves to be clear. In this matter.

I mean. If you did one thing. You took care of this. That's Paul talking. Paul saying. You got it cleared up. You got it cleared. You got it. So.

What's it say. So. How was it cleared. How was it cleared. Let's go back up. Let's go back up to verse. Verse. Nine.

Now I rejoice. Not that you were made sorry. But that you sorrow to repentance. Okay. That's what you need. That's what you need to do. For you were made sorry.

After a godly manner. That you might receive damage. By us and nothing. So. The first thing it talks about here. Is you were made sorry. After a godly manner.

[27 : 32] The Bible says. I think it's right here. Godly sorrow. Work with repentance. And that's what will happen. If you don't have godly sorrow. You won't want to repent.

So. You know. That's where people come in. And they just want somebody else. To get over it.

That's our tendency. But that's not. What needs to happen. It's. It's what's called godly sorrow.

It's not just. I'm sorry. Sorry honey. Get over it. Or. Sorry friend. Get over it. Or sorry. Whoever. Put anybody in that situation.

It wasn't. It wasn't. It wasn't. It wasn't. Uh. He said.

You did it after. What did he say? He said. A godly manner. It was done after a godly manner. It wasn't done after a fleshy manner. It wasn't done after. After a devilish manner.

[28 : 26] It was done after a godly manner. Not covering up on. Not covering it up on your own. Can't you just cover it up for me?

That's what they like. Can't you just cover it up? So he says. They. For godly sorrow. Look at verse 10. For godly sorrow. Worketh repentance to salvation.

Not. Not saved. You know. Not. Not yourself. Not the salvation that gets you to heaven. But just your sanctified life. Salvation not to be repented of. But the sorrow of the world.

Worketh death. And it will. It'll kill everything. You need to have godly sorrow.

That worketh repentance. The opposite. Of that. Is that revelation three stuff. Right. Think about it.

We're in that last. We're in that last church.

[29 : 30] That's that revelation stuff. It says. It says. This is what you say. In revelation three. It says. This is what you say. But I'm going to tell you. What you don't know. And that's what happens in these cases.

Where somebody offends. The offender. Not going to have it. Not going to hear it. Not going to get right. You just don't know. You just don't know.

I'm talking about spiritual people. In this example. That I'm talking about. And I'm like. I'm thinking.

You don't. I'm telling you. I'm trying to tell you. You're going to wish you didn't go down this road.

I'm telling you. Didn't listen to me. And. I was right. Unfortunately. And. Down months later. It's still.

It isn't cleared.

Very unfortunate. Having the right attitude. In the matter. Will help you clear it. If it doesn't get cleared.

[30 : 29] It isn't. Got that? If it doesn't get cleared. It isn't. Look at verse. Look at verse. So pick it back up.

Look at verse 11. For behold. This self-same thing. That she sorrowed. After a godly sword. So you understand what this is. This person's. Sorrowing. After a godly sword.

It says these things. What carefulness. It wrought in you. Yay. What clearing of yourselves. Yay. What indignation. Yay.

What fear. Yay. What vehement desire. Yay. What zeal. Yay. What revenge. This person. I thought. I thought. Wow. You talk about getting it right. Wow. This. This. This person like went overboard. I mean. What zeal. What vehement desire.

[31 : 26] I mean. What. What revenge. And that's not revenge. Against somebody. That's. You got it so right. You don't ever want to do it again. That's good.

You know. It reminded me. It reminded me. I wrote down David. You know. David was a great sinner. But I've been. I've heard somebody say. That David was a great repenter. And you know. You can say different things. I get it. David got caught. Red handed. But when he did. When he did. He got right. That's.

That's what we need to do. We need to have. You know. There was two words. I noticed. That were connected with. Revelation 3. You know. Revelation 3. Is. Is. Is. Is. Is. Is. Is. Is.

Our chapter. Right. It's. It's. You would do well. To read Revelation chapter 3. A hundred thousand times. Because it's. It's you. It's us. But in Revelation 3.

[32 : 21] He says. He uses two of these words. And one is zeal. And one is repentance. Be zealous therefore. And repent. Have vehement desire.

Have. Revenge. Have. You know. All them. All them words you use in there. Back to the husband. That ate the chocolate. He committed the offense. Against his wife. Paul told him.

In verse 8 and 9. That now that he is sorry for this. After a godly manner. And that he repented. Not just said he was sorry to shut her up.

Or for her to get over it. He is cleared of the offense. I realized. I used a illustration. That probably nobody can relate to.

[33 : 26] Hopefully. But the point is. When you offend someone. And you've committed an offense. You need to get it cleared.

You need to be clear. You've heard this. You probably said this. They cleared the air. They got it cleared up. Huh. Everybody. Anybody. Right. Of course.

Right. That's right from here. And you need to get it cleared up. If you do not. It won't be. Let's pray. Let's pray.

John. Could you come and play. Maybe 397. If you could do 397. Slowly. I want to give you opportunity to pray. You know. Pray wherever you do. But.

You know. If you haven't had this. In your life somewhere. I remember writing a letter to somebody. One time. And telling them. I was talking to them about their situation. But I told them. I said. I remember this.

[34 : 27] This situation was brought to my attention. That I offended somebody. In this thing. And so. I went. I went. Corrected it. I went.

And got it cleared. Because I didn't. I didn't want it like that. I didn't really. I didn't really know. I did. I did something like that. So. But it happens. And.

The right way to handle it. Is to get it cleared up. To get it cleared. Let's pray. And the altar is open. If anybody would like to use it.

Father. We are thankful tonight. For thy word. And. I pray that you would encourage thy people. To. See the need. I. I think.

I think that. We sometimes don't realize. How full we are of it. And when it doesn't get cleared.

[35 : 20] It gets piled up in the corner of the church. And it doesn't move itself out the door. Like it should. Have your will and way Lord.

In Jesus name. Amen. All right. If you would stand. And we'll sing. And we'll turn to page 397. In the blue. And we'll do it through.