

# Biblical Notes – 2 Corinthians 7:1

**1 – Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** (1. ταύτας οὖν ἔχοντες τὰς ἐπαγγελίας, ἀγαπητοί, καθαρίσωμεν ἐαυτοὺς ἀπὸ παντὸς μολυσμοῦ σαρκὸς καὶ πνεύματος, ἐπιτελοῦντες ἀγιωσύνην ἐν φόβῳ θεοῦ)

“Having therefore these promises - The promises mentioned in the three last verses of the preceding chapter, to which this verse should certainly be joined.”

— Adam Clarke, Adam Clarke Commentary, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“Having therefore these promises - The promises referred to in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; the promise that God would be a Father, a protector, and a friend. The idea is, that as we have a promise that God would dwell in us, that he would be our God, that he would be to us a Father, we should remove from us whatever is offensive in his sight, and become perfectly holy.”

— Albert Barnes, Albert Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“Having therefore these promises. Those named in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. This verse is properly in that connection, and should not have been separated by the chapter division.”

— People's New Testament, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“2 Corinthians 7:1. Having therefore these promises,— This verse should certainly have been connected with what goes before, and not have begun a new chapter.”

— Thomas Coke, Thomas Coke Commentary on the Holy Bible, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“These words are argumentative, and infer the indispensable duty of Christians to preserve themselves untainted from the idolatrous, impure world, by the consideration of the promises specified in the preceding chapter.”

— Expository Notes with Practical Observations on the New Testament, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“2 Corinthians 7:1 closes the previous section. Since we accordingly (according to 2 Corinthians 6:16-18) have these promises (namely, that God will dwell among us, receive us, be our Father, etc.), we wish not to make them null in our case by an immoral life.”

— Heinrich Meyer's Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“1. Having—This verse completes the last section, and should belong to the sixth chapter.”

— Whedon's Commentary on the Bible, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“2 Corinthians 7:1. Having, therefore, these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. It is a pity that this verse has been detached from the preceding chapter, of which it forms the natural close; for the “promises” meant are no other than those in 2 Corinthians 7:16-18, and the exhortation here given is simply a more comprehensive form of the call to separate themselves from all contamination.”

— Philip Schaff, Schaff's Popular Commentary on the New Testament, Commentary on 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“Paul is probably implying that the Corinthians had become defiled, perhaps by occasionally sharing meals at idol-shrines or by continuing to attend festivals or ceremonies in pagan temples (cf. 1 Corinthians 8:10; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22), or even by maintaining their membership in some local pagan cult. If they made a clean break (cf. *katharisomen*, aorist) with pagan life in any and every form, they would be bringing their holiness nearer completion by this proof of their reverence for God.”

— Harris, 360-361.

“This passage [2 Corinthians 6:14 to 2 Corinthians 7:1] is a specific call for separation from the temple cults of Corinth, in direct continuity with the holiness-separation theme of 1 Corinthians, and is located here as the climax of the *apologia* for Paul's apostolate.”

— Barnett, 341.