

In 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 Paul writes:

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it – I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while – 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.

In 2 Timothy 2:25 Paul, writing to his young protege, gives him sound counsel as to how the Lord's servant should conduct himself when dealing with opponents of the truth of God. Paul says: "Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth."

In Revelation 3:19, in His letter to the church at Laodicea, the Lord Jesus says: "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent."

In Revelation 9:20-21 we read: "The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."

In Revelation 16:9 we read: "They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him."

And in Revelation 16:8-11 we are told:

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

What can we learn from these (and other) scriptures?