

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God and Timothy our
AS WE BEGIN
- II) Ac 15:36-18:22 records what is called Paul's 2nd missionary journey
Paul left N Turkey, went W across the Aegean and came to ancient Greece
- III) On his journey he went S, preaching in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens
After ministering in Athens he journeyed 50 mi S, to the port city of **Corinth**
It was located on an isthmus connecting No. and So. Greece
CORINTH WAS A MAJOR CITY
- IV) According to ancient standards, Corinth was very large, with a pop. 700,000
As a port city, it was very busy and was filled with a variety of activities
AS A MAJOR CITY
- V) It hosted athletic contests equal to Olympics, called the Isthmian games
It was also an entertainment center, and well as a major trade center
THE POPULATION WAS COSMOPOLITAN
- VI) Corinth was made up of Greeks, Roman officials and businessmen, as well as
many near eastern peoples, including Jews
IT WAS VERY RELIGIOUS
- VII) It had a large Temple dedicated to Aphrodite, who was served by 1,000 temple
prostitutes who sold themselves to sailors and local men
- VIII) As a well known and prosperous city, it became the envy of many other cities
Some began using the word **Corinthian** as a synonym for debauched
IT WAS AN IMPORTANT CITY NEEDING JESUS
- IX) It was around 50-52 AD that Paul founded the church, and was its first pastor
Ac 18:11, 18 tells us that Paul ministered in Corinth **for 18 months**, and then left
- X) Early on issues developed that were severe enough for him to write a letter
Division through comparisons, immorality, marriage problems, idolatry, women's
roles, communion behavior, spiritual gifts, the resurrection, and stewardship questions
had all been dealt with, so Paul wrote his first letter to address these problems
- XI) As the founding pastor, Paul loved them and had great concern for them
He was the spiritual father of the church and had an intense love for them
THEY WERE LIKE A DAUGHTER TO HIM
1 Co 11:2 I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I espoused you to one
husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ

- I) **The problem:** False teachers had entered the church and were influencing them
It was out of this concern that he had originally written the first letter
1 Co 4:15 For though you have **ten thousand instructors** in Christ, yet have you not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
- II) Their presence prompted him to write another letter, to protect them from error
This is because of his love for Jesus and his concern for their spiritual lives
- III) As their spiritual father and teacher, his desire was for them to mature in Jesus
This concern for their spiritual growth was intense
Gal 4:19 (NLT) Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.
- IV) False teachers don't have this kind of concern for people
For them, the motive in preaching their message is for financial profit
Titus 1:11 (False teachers) must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. **And they do it only for money.**
- V) In order to undermine Paul's ministry to them, the false teachers made accusations
As we go through the letter, we will see him respond to various accusations
- VI) I will point out these accusations out as we go through the study
They were based on his character, personality, teaching style, looks and love
As we examine the accusations we will see how Paul responded to these attacks
FINALLY
- VII) Who were these false teachers that had entered the church?
 - 1st: They were intruders, coming from **outside** of the Church (3:1)
 - 2nd: They were **pseudo-intellectuals**, using arguments that lacked substance (10:5)
 - 3rd: They arrogantly claimed a **superior ministry** to Paul's (2 Co 11:5)
 - 4th: They were **mercenaries**, greedy for financial gain (2 Co 11:7-8)
 - 5th: They were **Jewish**
2 Co 11:22 Are they **Hebrews**? So am I. Are they **Israelites**? So am I. Are they the **seed of Abraham**? So am I.
- VIII) It seems Paul had received a report of false teachers invading the church
Upon hearing this, Paul sent Titus to check on their condition

- I) Titus returned with an encouraging report, lifting his concerned spirit
2 Co 7:6-7 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.
- II) This report prompted him to write this letter
Date of writing: He wrote 1st Co around 55-56, this letter was around 56-57
BEGIN
- III) V1-2 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God and Timothy our brother
This is the typical greeting of Paul and is used in 9 of his letters
- IV) He is an apostle: Apostolos: Used 81 times in total
A messenger, one sent forth with orders; specifically applied to the 12 apostles
- V) And Timothy our brother
Timothy was saved under Paul's ministry and assisted him on many occasions
- VI) The Corinthians knew and trusted Timothy, because he had ministered to them
1 Co 4:17 For this cause have I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church
- VII) V1 To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints
Church: Ekklesia: The group of people called out of the world by God
Jn 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- VIII) **With all the saints** (common designation), used 63 times in reference to believers
Circulate this letter amongst other churches in the area so they can read it, too
Col 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.
- IX) V2 Grace and peace: Charis/Shalom: The Greek and Hebrew greeting, combined
Eph 2:8-9
Is 57:21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."
- X) V3-5 **Blessed be** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

- I) Paul begins with thanksgiving to God for His comfort in times of pain and distress
- II) Paul's ministry life was filled with affliction and suffering as he will later outline
The Corinthians were aware he had gone through much trouble in Asia (V8-9)
This may allude to trouble he had in Ephesus started by an idol maker, Demetrius
1ST ACCUSATION
- III) Some said all of the trouble he endured was because **God was judging him**
In essence, he was reaping what he deserved
If he didn't preach they way he did, then he wouldn't suffer as he did
- IV) This is something that is still said today: don't get people mad
- V) Paul knew that hardship was part of the cost of *picking up his cross*
Great saints of the past all suffered for their faith
Elijah fled for his life from Jezebel
Shadrach, Mesech, Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace
Daniel was thrown into a lion's den
Jeremiah was beaten, jailed, and thrown into a cistern (Jer 38:6)
- VI) In the NT Stephen was martyred and James the brother of John was beheaded
Paul wasn't suffering for being **sinful**, he was suffering for being **faithful**
2 Ti 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution**
APPLICATION
- VII) Instead of fleeing because things are difficult, we believers stand in faith
- VIII) When Moses delivered the children of Israel, he came to the Red Sea
Behind him was the army of Egypt, before him was the Red Sea
- IX) The people saw they were trapped and began to panic
We should have remained in Egypt. It would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert
- X) It was then that Moses showed what true, spiritual leadership was
Ex 14:13-14 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still!
God fought for them and delivered the children of Israel

- I) We are in spiritual warfare, but our God will fight for us
We need to plant our feet of faith and hold fast to God, our merciful comforter
Eph 6:13 Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**
- II) Instead of it being judged, Paul knew God's deliverance demonstrated His grace
This prompted him to bless God for His comfort in his time of pain and distress
WHEN PAUL WAS CALLED
- III) Jesus made a statement to a man named Ananias
Ac 9:15-16 But the Lord said unto him, Go your way: for he is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things **he must suffer** for My name's sake.
- IV) He knew that his times of trouble and pain were part of God's work in him
He is not filled with bitterness over his various trials but gives Him praise
- V) This is because, in spite of all that he had endured God had been **merciful** to him
Mercy is **not receiving** what you **deserve**; it is a visible expression of **compassion**
- VI) V3 He had also received **God's comfort**, for He is the **God of all Comfort**
Paul, in the midst of his struggles, had received God's consolation, rest
- VII) God's loving kindness extended towards man is an expression of His nature
Ps 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Long-suffering and abundant in mercy and truth.
Lam 3:22-24 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I hope in him."
- VIII) Paul understood this, which fueled his praise to God
NOTICE
- IX) V3 He refers to God as the Father of mercies and God of all comfort
Consolation and comfort are key words, used around 17 times in this epistle
- X) In V3-7, the words **comfort** and **consolation** are used 10 times in these verses
Affliction, suffering, trouble, and tribulation occur 7 times in these verses
WHAT IS HE SAYING

- I) He is saying that our God is a comforting and merciful Father
Knowing this helps us to endure whatever we go through, with hope
IT PRODUCES EXPERIENCE AND CREDIBILITY
- II) V4 Who comforts us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort those
This gives us insight into **the fruit** of enduring afflictions, and suffering
It gives us the credibility often needed **to be a trusted comforter** to others
- III) God is comforting and merciful, so we should also be comforting and merciful
This is because He is making us like Jesus
Mt 10:25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.
APPLICATION
- IV) Part of the way **God's comfort** is given is through God's children to one another
As Christians, we should make it our aim to encourage and comfort one another
Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ
FACT
- V) Though a person may encourage us, our deepest comfort comes from God
It is God who comforts us in our times of pain and need
Is 51:12 I, even I, am He who comforts you
- VI) V4 Who comforts us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort those who
Your ability to give comfort is tied in with your experience in receiving comfort
You ultimately give to others what you yourself have received
- VII) Paul had **received** great comfort and therefore, could give great comfort to others
QUESTION
- VIII) Why do we need comfort? Because we go through some very hard times
- IX) Life can be very difficult some times, with losses and pains that can be intense
We can be rejected by family and friends because of our faith in Jesus
- X) People can verbally or physically abuse us, or gossip and lie about us
Jesus prepared His followers for this kind of life
Mt 10:24-25 A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

- I) This is something that Paul constantly experienced
1 Co 4:12-13 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.
- II) Jesus prepared His followers for this, though when it happens it can be surprising
Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.
- III) The key to enduring these things is to keep looking forward to the results
In many ways, this is how your prayer to **be more like Jesus** is fulfilled
Ro 8:28-29 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
- IV) V5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us so our consolation also abounds
The sufferings (pains) of Jesus abound (overflow) in relation to us
THOUGHT
- V) The sufferings that Jesus endured benefit every believer
He suffered for us, and we too suffer, giving us experience that is used for others
NOTICE
- VI) V5 So our **consolation** (comfort) also abounds through Christ
Because God is merciful and comforts us, we experience this personally
WE MUST UNDERSTAND
- VII) His mercy and compassion do not extend to us and stop with us
His mercy and compassion is to flow to us and flow from us, **to others**
- VIII) These things deepen and equip us to compassionately **encourage hurting people**
- IX) V6 Now if we are afflicted **it is for your consolation** and salvation which is effective
The things Paul and others suffered were for the good of the believers
- X) His way of responding to such troubles should serve to comfort and inspire others
As they see him joyfully ministering, they should be inspired to do so also
This example should strengthen them, and minister peace and comfort to them

- I) V6 We are equipped to comfort others with the same comfort that we receive
 - II) They are enduring hardships, and Paul can be an example of the fruit of affliction
Suffering is not mindless, useless fate: There is a purpose within it
We give to other what we ourselves have received: comfort from the Lord
 - III) V7 And **our hope for you** is steadfast because we know that as you are partakers of
The fact that you are enduring reveals that you will also receive consolation
 - IV) This consolation can be experienced here, as the Lord delivers you out of the trials
Ps 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all
 - V) Ultimately our full experience will be found when we see Jesus
1 Pe 4:13-14 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified.
- APPLICATION**
- VI) Through all that we endure **that is not** something **we have brought** upon ourselves; we must remember that God is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort