



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**September 26, 2021**

**2 Corinthians 1:1-11: The One Who Comes Alongside**

Παρακαλεύω: para: alongside, keleo: called

(to encourage, console, help, COMFORT)

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort... (2 Corinthians 1:3)*



## 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

To the church of God . . . d in Corinth

► 13 τῆ<sup>12</sup> ἐκκλησίᾱ<sup>13</sup> → τοῦ<sup>14</sup> θεοῦ<sup>15</sup> τῆ<sup>16</sup> οὔση<sup>17</sup> ἐν<sup>18</sup> Κορίνθω<sup>19</sup>

92.24 11.32 92.24 12.1 92.24 85.1 83.13 93.506

*Grace and Peace to you... (2 Corinthians 1:3)*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**Something God can do with suffering.**

He comforts us in all our troubles **so that** we can comfort others in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:5

For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ...

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)*

*You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)*

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. (1 Peter 2:21)*

...so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

*If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)*

2 Corinthians 1:6-8

*“For the helmsman is recognized in the tempest; in the warfare the soldier is proved. It is a wanton display when there is no danger. Struggle in adversity is the trial of the truth.”  
(CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE)*

*“In the midst of our struggles we are sometimes brought to the very edge of despair, to use Paul’s word in 2 Corinthians. But if you are close to that point and are thinking negatively, as most of us do at times, I want to say this: Although the struggle is a real one and difficult, the outcome is not bleak or uncertain but glorious—because of God.” (James Montgomery Boice)*

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

*Look at the Book, John Piper, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)*

## **A Second thing God can do with our suffering.**

He awakens and increases our reliance on God who raises the dead – instead of our reliance on ourselves.

### **HOME GROUP Questions for 2 Corinthians 1:1-11...**

- What does this passage show us about Paul's focus and foundation?
- What character quality of God does he emphasize?
- Why might he have emphasized this?
- Why is it important for us to know that God is a God of comfort?
- What specific ways does He comfort people in affliction?
- Can you share any examples of ways God has comforted you during trials?
- Besides proving our faith, what is one reason God may allow you to go through suffering based on this passage?
- How exactly do believers "share abundantly in comfort?"
- How could Paul's affliction help the Corinthians?
- What kind of sufferings might the Corinthians have had to share in?

### **Cross-References**

- Psalm 23:4 – *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
- Psalm 119:76 – *Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant.*
- Psalm 119:50 – *This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.*
- Matthew 5:4 – *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*