

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (OCTOBER 09, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

Following the custom of his time, Paul includes a thanksgiving after his opening greeting. This thanksgiving is focused not upon some praiseworthy characteristic of the readers, but rather upon *the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort* who had comforted Paul in all his *troubles*. The *comfort* he received was sometimes deliverance from his afflictions or anxiety and at other times encouragement in the midst of them. Here Paul speaks of *comfort* as encouragement and strengthening grace in the midst of troubles. He says that we are comforted *so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from our Father God*.

Paul encourages others by pointing out that while his ministry may have been attended by many troubles it made it possible for them to share in God's comfort.

WE GROW BEST TOGETHER

SERMON PASSAGE: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.^[a] ⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers,^[b] of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does this passage show us about Paul's focus and foundation?
2. What character quality of God does he emphasize?
3. Why this is very important for Paul and the Corinthians?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why is it important for us to know that our God is a God of comfort? Can you share any testimonies of ways God has comforted you during trials?
5. Why is it important for us to grow together?
6. How could Paul's affliction help the Corinthians? How can this help us and our church?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. What does God's comfort help you to move forward in your life and ministry?
8. Why God let us experience suffering in this world?
9. What God is trying to communicate to us, the church today?
10. What kind of hope and comfort we have in our Father God? Why praying to God is very important?

Notes: _____

Take the time to read this passage again, ask God to reveal His message and plan to your life, He may want to show you more in His Word. Pray before, during and after you finish reading God's Word, and share it with others and practice what you just have heard and learned from the Lord. Remember that God wants the best for you, and your family. Don't let the things of this world distract you; please keep your eyes on Jesus, and let His will be done.