

**2 Corinthians**  
**“Being Real as We Face Life”**  
**March 17, 2024**

- Intro to 2 Corinthians
  - This is probably the 4<sup>th</sup> letter from Paul to the church at Corinth
  - Paul probably wrote this letter in the Fall of AD 55
  - Theme: Defense of Paul’s Apostleship
  - Paul’s most personal letter
- 1:1-7
  - Paul is an apostle by the will of God
  - He is writing this letter with Timothy, often times using “we, our(s),” or similar—context gives proper understanding of the plurality of pronouns
  - Affliction means “tribulation” or “distresses,” and literally means “pressure”— think of the wine press—there is purpose when tribulation and pressure is in our lives
  - Mercy is not receiving what you deserve
  - Grace is receiving what you do not deserve
  - God is...the Father of mercies and the God of comfort
  - The Lord can use affliction in our lives to help bring comfort in the lives of others—we’re in this together!
- 1:8-11
  - The Greek word for despair means “to be utterly at loss, be utterly destitute of measures or resources, to renounce all hope, to be in despair”
  - Pray...pray...pray—prayer fights the battles worth fighting, in the only way worth fighting
- 2:12-13
  - Paul is not at rest in his spirit
  - At unrest, he still has gratitude, which changes the attitude
- 7:5-7
  - Paul has no rest, with conflicts without, and fears within
  - The Lord brings Titus to him with comfort
  - The testing of our faith produces endurance unto the mature individual
- “...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.”—Chuck Swindoll
- 4:16-18
  - Paul does not lose heart
  - He is being renewed daily
  - He has an eternal outlook
- 12:9-10
  - The Lord’s grace is sufficient
  - Being weak is to be strong—it is Christ’s strength, not your own
- Are you being renewed daily?
- Do you find the Lord’s grace sufficient?