

# 2ND CORINTHIANS

## Week 1 (p.1)



### 2ND CORINTHIANS 1:1-2:4

Read - Acts 18 tells the story of Paul missionary journey to Corinth.

Paul was the founder of the church in Corinth as we read in acts 18. The church in Corinth begin to reject Paul because he was not flashy, rich or an eloquent speaker. The church began to come under “super apostles” and following their teaching. Paul uses these circumstances to point out to the church that because of these preferences, they are revealing they have a flawed love for Christ. Their value of comfort, money and status is a symptom of a bigger problem, a heart problem.

1. Paul has the right to talk about affliction, what was his affliction?
  - a. This includes physical hardships like sickness, dangers like shipwrecks, persecution like being whipped beaten and stoned, and the anxiety that stems from all the above.
2. What does this tell us about suffering?
  - a. God is aware of all you are going through.
  - b. God will comfort you if you turn to Him.
  - c. God will not waste your pain.
3. Are all our sufferings “sharing in Christ suffering? What is the difference?
  - a. Suffering in Christ means that we endure on behalf of Christ an experience like birth pains. We are united with Christ to fulfill the role in his affliction. Our sufferings are meant to reveal the hope we have in Christ in such a way that God would be honored.
  - b. 1 Peter 3:13-18
4. How is it that God comforts us in our affliction?
  - a. A good question might ask, “How did Jesus experience joy in going to the cross?”
5. Why is it impactful that Paul says he and Timothy are afflicted for the comfort of the church and for the salvation of the church?
  - a. One positive outcome is that we have the ability to comfort others with the comfort we have received from God.

# 2ND CORINTHIANS

## Week 1 (p.2)



6. Are we willing to suffer for the spiritual health of others?

In VS 15-18, Paul begins to defend himself. His integrity has been brought into question by the very church that he planted. It is likely that this questioning of Paul's integrity is spurred on by those "super apostles" we will meet later in the book. Paul is saying I desire to visit you and there was no vacillation in my decision. Since the people of the church question Paul's integrity he also begins in verse 19 to defend the faithfulness of God.

VS 19 - In Christ there is not this fluctuation between yes and no. Jesus Christ is unchanging so in him is always yes he goes on to make it clear starting in verse 20. Not one of these promises of God will not be filled in Jesus Christ. That's why we utter Amen. It may be observed that is only when we add our Amen to the promises of God which find their yes in Christ that those promises become effective in our case and we may on that account then truly glorify God for his grace to us.

7. Paul is saying that unless we add our approval to the promises of God they do not become effectual for us. What promises in scripture do you hold dearly?

In VS 23-2:4, Paul makes it clear why he avoided stopping by Corinth. He wanted to spare them another painful visit. What made it painful is the discipleship and admonishment that Paul needed to do. This letter could have been another letter that would fall between 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians where he reprimanded the Church.

8. Why is it so important to have someone like Paul that will correct our behavior?

9. Do you have someone in your life that will cause you "Pain" out of true love for your spiritual well-being?

a. If no, is that because no one is available or that you are unapproachable and do not receive correction well?