

# The Corinthian Epistles

## 2 Corinthians 1 Part 1

### Greeting

**1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, unto the church of God, which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

**2** Grace *be* to you and peace from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

- So, why did Paul send a second epistle to the church at Corinth
  - By the will of God
  - Isn't that enough
  - And the letter comes in Grace and Peace
    - Let your guard down and the Spirit and the Word work

### God of All Comfort

**3** Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

**4** Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

- Understand this...
  - Paul's first letter was very necessary to set some things straight and get things in order at Corinth
    - They had to deal with great division
    - They had to understand Spiritual gifts and their purpose

- They had to understand what God's Love really was
  - They had to understand that God's love and God's spiritual gifts were all about Him, not them
  - They had to understand that they had to STAND
    - Don't be swayed by everything, be founded in the Word of God
- When the child of God endeavors to give God their lives
  - There will be contention
  - There will be attacks
  - There will be hard times
  - Satan is a sore loser
- So, we find this letter from Paul to start off with consolation
  - God is the God of ALL Comfort!
  - Obviously the church was striving to do right and had a testimony of such
  - Paul, by God's Will wrote to help them understand
    - Tribulations are not a place to give up, but a place to find great comfort in Christ
  - This comfort we find in Christ is sweet, but just as the spiritual giftings are not about us, neither is the comfort
  - God allows tribulation in our lives
    - This is so we will continue to realize that we simply cannot live godly without Him
    - This is so others will see that God is the God of all comfort IN the tribulation
    - We don't need comfort when we are comfortable
    - We receive comfort in pursuit of Christ
    - We then help comfort others, but from a place of understanding and sympathy

**5** For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

**6** And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

**7** And our hope of you *is* steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation.

- IN Christ...

- **2Timothy 3:12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

- **Psalm 37:12** The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

- 13** The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

- 14** The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation.

- 15** Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

- **Matthew 5:10** *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- 11** *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

- 12** *Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

- **1 Thessalonians 3:3** That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
- **4** For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
- Paul lets the church know that in his tribulations, he not only sought the comfort in Christ, but prayed that he would be able to share that comfort with Corinth
  - This was to help them understand...
    - Don't focus on the tribulation, focus on Christ
    - Then in sharing with others your time in tribulation, it is to share the consolation found in Christ
    - **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
      - 2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
      - 3** For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
    - **Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
    - **17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

**8** For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

**9** But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

**10** Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

**11** Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

- Now Paul gives his testimony of Christ's consolation with application
  - He knew of real tribulation
  - This took Paul to a place of despair and fear
  - Paul in faith knew these things...
    - He knew he was under a death sentence in his flesh because of sin...so his flesh (how he felt) did not matter and was not to be trusted
      - **Romans 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
    - He knew that in Christ he had a resurrected life which delivered him from the death sentence
      - **Romans 6:7** For he that is dead is freed from sin.
    - He knew that no matter the tribulation, Christ made him victorious
      - **Romans 6:8** Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

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- He knew that there were Christians praying for him
  - People that needed to see God Work in their lives
  - People that needed to know God answered prayers
- He knew that no matter the tribulation God took him to, God would lead him through in Christ
  - **Philippians 1:21** For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.