

2 Corinthians 1

-Paul first taught the Word of God in Corinth during his second missionary journey.

-While Paul was in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, the Lord through him wrote 1 Corinthians.

-Paul sent Titus to take the 1 Corinthians letter to the church at Corinth.

-After Titus spent time in Corinth, he left and traveled to Macedonia where he met Paul.

-After Titus told Paul what was happening with the church in Corinth, God through Paul wrote 2 Corinthians.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:1

1- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia:

-What did Paul understand about being an apostle of Christ Jesus?

-That he was an apostle of Christ not of his own will, but only because of the will of God.

-We are saved from sin, death, and Satan not of our own

will, but only because of the will of God.

-Some Christians may brag about themselves, but the good that we do is only because of the will of God.

-When we are saved by Christ, what is our part?

-Our only part is to say "Yes" to Christ, for He is the one who has done all of the work on the cross.

-From verse 1, we notice that Timothy was with Paul in Macedonia.

-Timothy and Paul did much work together, as our God wants us to work together.

-This is one reason why the Lord Jesus sent out His disciples two by two.

-When we are alone, it is easier for the world, the flesh, and Satan to tempt us.

-When we are, however, with another brother or sister in Christ, then we can encourage one another.

-This letter 2 Corinthians was written to Christians in Corinth as well as to Christians in Achaia which is southern Greece.

-Yet, like all books in the New Testament, it is written for all Christians throughout the world.

-Even though no Christian is perfect, how does God see us?

-As holy people or saints.

-Why does God see Christians as holy people or saints?

-Because of the blood of the Lord Jesus which covers us.

-If we Christians were to see ourselves as God sees us, we would be amazed at how the Lord Jesus has covered us.

-If we Christians were to see ourselves as God sees us, we would be amazed at all that God has done for us.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:2

2-Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” is a greeting in all of Paul's letters.

-Grace is favor from God that we do not earn or merit.

-Grace is a total gift from God to us that we do not earn or merit.

-Because of God's grace, we have peace in our hearts.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3-Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

4-who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

-Our God is not only the God of compassion, but also the God of all comfort.

-What does the word “comfort” mean?

-For someone to come alongside of another.

-In all of our troubles, our God is alongside of us to comfort us.

-God comforts us not only to help us, but also so that we can comfort others.

-This is one of the reasons why God allows trouble in our lives.

-Not only so that our faith in God would grow, but also so that we can help the faith of others to grow.

-When we comfort other Christians, we are helping their faith in God to grow.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:5

5-For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

-From what did the Lord Jesus suffer?

-From the sins of others.

-From what do Christians suffer?

-From the sins of others, but also from our own sin.

-How do we share in the sufferings of Christ?

-Just as the Lord Jesus suffered because of sin, we also suffer because of sin.

-When we suffer because of sin, whether it is our own sin or the sin of another, what is important to know?

-That our Christ has also suffered, and that He is with us in our suffering.

-Knowing that Christ is with us in our suffering is also our great comfort.

-Just as a father or a mother holds their child when they are crying, so the Lord Jesus holds us when we suffer.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:6-7

6-If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same

sufferings we suffer.

7-And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

-A true brother or sister in Christ does not live for themselves, but lives for others in the family of God.

-As a true brother in Christ, Paul was worried about the Corinthian Christians.

-Whenever we as Christians share Christ in us with others in the family of Christ, we are all encouraged together at the same time.

-In the family of Christ, others' concerns should be our concerns, and others' comforts should be our comforts.

-Just as the Lord Jesus shared all of His life with His disciples and with all who believe in Him, we should also share our lives with our family in Christ.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:8

8-We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

-Paul had so many problems in Asia that he had no more

strength to continue, and thought that he was going to die.

-Most, if not all Christians have times when they have no more strength to continue, and think that they are going to die.

-Why does God allow Christians to have difficulties in our lives?

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:9-10

9-Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

10-He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

-We have difficulties so that we do not depend on ourselves, but depend on God.

-If we have no problems in life, we do not call on God for help.

-It is only when we have problems in life that we call on God for help.

-Our biggest problem is to die because of our sin, but God raises people from the dead.

-In the past, it is God who has delivered us from our difficulties in life.

-In the future, it will be God who will deliver us from our difficulties in life.

-For Christians, when our bodies become sick or old, it will be God who will deliver us from death.

-Who alone can take difficulties, and turn them into blessings?

-Only God.

-Who alone can take death, and turn it into eternal life?

-Only God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:11

11-as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

-Did the prayers of the Corinthian Christians help Paul?

-Yes.

-We should pray for those who teach us the Word of God.

-This is because, like Paul, they will also have many difficulties.