

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 1

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Why Do Christians Suffer?

1 May 2023

INTRODUCTION TO THIS BOOK

Second epistles often have to do with the enemy:

- Second Corinthians: The power and working of the Satan, our enemy.
- Second Timothy: The Church falling into ruin.
- Second Peter: The coming apostacy.
- Second John: Ministers of Antichrist.
- Second Thessalonians: The man of sin.

Purpose of the letter:

- To comfort those who had responded to his first epistle.
 - They had troubles and trials within and without.
 - The hope of the resurrection (chpt. 4-5) is a great comfort.
- To warn the disobedient.
- To establish Paul's authority as an apostle, setting forth his right to rebuke and correct them.
 - This authority was important during the time before the New Testament was written.

Vs 1 “The church of God which is at Corinth.” The church is God's church, purchased by Jesus Christ.

Vs 2 Grace and peace can only come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs 3 “The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” is “the Father of mercies” and “the God of all comfort.”

- If God has ALL the comfort, then you won't find true comfort anywhere else.
 - Religion, drugs, alcohol, etc. can't provide real, lasting comfort.

THE GOD OF:

Glory (Acts 7:2), **Comfort** (2 Cor. 1:3), **Hope** (Rom. 15:13), **Love** (2 Cor. 13:11), **Patience** (Rom. 15:5), **Peace** (Rom 15:33), **Grace** (1 Pet. 5:16), **Truth** (Deut. 32:4).

The God of all comfort:

- We will certainly face trouble, hardships, sorrows, tears, disappointment, etc.
- Jesus promised not to leave us comfortless (John 14:18), but that He would come to us.
- He is in us in the person of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit (John 16:7, 15:26, 14:26).
 - The Comforter is present for our every trial and every need for comfort.

Vs 4 **“⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation...”**

- *“Tribulatio” (Gr)* is a Roman threshing instrument. It separates the wheat from the chaff, exposing the good. The tribulations we face in our life serve the same purpose.
- God does not promise to take away our tribulation. He promises to provide comfort in the middle of tribulation.
 - We ought to pray for God’s comfort (biblical) rather than the removal of the trouble.

“...that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble.” This is one purpose for tribulation.

- The troubles we go through enable US to be a comfort to others when they face similar trials.
 - This is a very effective ministry that God gives us.

“...by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (present tense).

- God comforts us in our troubles and makes us better suited to comfort someone else in similar troubles.

WHY DO CHRISTIANS SUFFER?

1. To make us sympathetic toward others when they suffer (2 Cor. 1:4).
 2. To make us heavenly minded and take our eyes off of the temporal life (Col. 3:1-3).
 3. To make us fruitful (John 15:2).
 4. To keep us humble (2 Cor. 12:5-7).
 5. To learn that God’s grace is all-sufficient (Philippians 4:13).
 6. To mature spiritually (Romans 5:3).
 7. To prove God’s promises to be true (2 Cor. 1:20).
 8. To make us happy now (1 Peter 3:14).
 9. To make us happy when we meet the Lord (1 Peter 4:12-13).
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