

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 2

The Unique Sufferings of the Christian

8 May 2023

Vs 5 “For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us...” This suffering is unique to the believer. This suffering occurs BECAUSE we follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Ridiculed and opposed.
- Loss of family relationships.
- Loss of income or career.
- Loss of freedom, liberty, or life.

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Tim. 3:12).

Vs 5 “...**So our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.**” Whatever kind of suffering you might face, God’s grace, mercy, and consolation will equal the circumstance.

- God’s help, power, assistance, strength, and love will increase as your sufferings increase.

Vs 6 “**Whether we be afflicted...whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.**”

- Paul, Timothy, and companions had been afflicted and then comforted by God. They were able to use those personal experiences to console (comfort) the believers at Corinth.
- It was for their salvation (from despair, from abandoning faith, from denying the Lord, etc.).

Vs 7 “...**as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.**”

- Those who suffer for Christ’s sake have a promise of consolation to match.

Vs 8 “...**our trouble which came to us in Asia...**” This is one of many examples where a personal testimony is given. Testimonies serve, not to brag on self, but to glorify God and praise Him for His marvelous work in our situations. Testimonies should encourage and strengthen the brethren.

“...we were pressed out of measure...we despaired even of life.” The realities of life for the Christian: you are going to get sick, you will have troubles, and you will die.

- The bible doesn’t teach that the Christian can make those realities disappear. It teaches believers how to have victory in those trying times.
- God will not let you be **tempted above that ye are able** (1 Cor. 10:13). That verse applies to temptation, not sorrow, suffering, tribulation, burdens, or heartaches, which very well may be more than you are able to handle.
 - The Holy Spirit and the faithful brethren and the promises of God are there to console us and help us get the victory in those situations.
 - David, Job, Elijah, Moses, and Jeremiah all faced a time in their life when their trials were more than they could bear and they begged for death.

Vs 9 “...**we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.**” Without God, you’ll not be able to get through your difficulties. Even if you die, God can take care of you.

Vs 10 God “**delivered...doth deliver...will yet deliver us.**” (Past, present, and future deliverance).

- Saved from sin’s penalty (past).
- Saved from the power of sin (present).
- Saved from the presence of sin (future). (See also Psalm 116:8 and Rom. 5:8-10).

Vs 11 “**helping together by prayer for us...**” We need to pray for missionaries and suffering saints. They need our prayers. We need our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are in this together (Rom. 14:7).