

Let's Worship God

5th-10th October 2026
2 Corinthians





Monday - 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 - Comfort in Christ

We are now going to be looking at the book of 2nd Corinthians using a sermon series by Rev. Bruce Parnell (Stillwater RPCNA). These sermons can be found on Sermonaudio.

Paul had been in Corinth by God's grace to preach, to evangelize, to establish a church of Jesus Christ. He'd left after a period of establishment there, and after he left there was some trouble that came on the church. He wrote a letter to the church there answering some questions and making some corrections to some of their assumptions and to their errors, and that's what we know as the book of the Bible called First Corinthians. Unfortunately things didn't appear to get better and Paul wrote another letter. It's a more stern letter of rebuke, and we don't have that letter in existence. But after this sorrowful letter news reaches Paul that the Corinthians have responded to the correction, and that they've repented, they've followed his counsel, they're seeking after the Lord, and Paul is so moved with joy over that, that he writes this letter to the Corinthians.

The theme in these first verses is comfort. First we see that comfort comes from God. Paul says that God is the Father of mercies. God is compassionate, showing mercy to those who need mercy. Paul names Him as the God of all comfort, saying that He comforts those who trust Him in all their tribulations.

Paul doesn't stop there. He identifies God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is that mercy that God sends. He is the God of comfort who comforts us by sending the Lord Jesus Christ. The word comfort means with strength. With strength is comfort. With strength, God comes to us. With Christ, God comes to us. It has the idea of someone coming alongside you to help you in your hour of need.

The whole notion of needing strength and comfort implies that we are powerless, that we are broken, that we have a deep fundamental need. That deep fundamental need is that we are sinners, that we need to be healed from the brokenness of sin, that we need to be cleansed from that shame of rebellion, that we need to be reborn by faith in Jesus Christ. And it is for this purpose that Christ came. Christ came to pay the penalty for our sins.

From this saving love comes comfort in all settings. God comes to us in our sufferings and gives us strength in Christ. The Lord is present in your hour of need. He gives you strength and consolation to face tribulation.

Question

1. What do these verses teach us about comfort?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is the God of all comforts.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Praise: Psalm 23B - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 - That We May Comfort

God comforts us that we may in turn comfort others. First of all, God comforts us. Paul says that we are suffering the sufferings of Christ. Later in his letter, Paul will relate what some of those sufferings have been in his own life. Paul identifies these sufferings as the sufferings of Christ. Paul is identifying us with our Redeemer. He's identifying us in such a way that when we suffer, we can take comfort in our union with Christ who suffered for us. And we can say along with Paul that when our sufferings increased, so does our consolation. So does the comfort that we have because God comes to us. God comes to us and by His Spirit, by His presence, He overflows in love to us.

But the force of this passage presses us not just to have our eyes on Christ and to see how we are comforted in Him, but then to look around us and to see how we are enabled to comfort others. The church is described as the body of Christ such that when one member of the body hurts, the whole body rallies around it to encourage, to help, to comfort the hurting member. Paul compares the comfort that we give to the love of God Himself. Maybe you're like me - that you run up against a brother or sister in Christ who is undergoing something that is a very terrible trial, and you wonder: 'How can I be of comfort in this situation?' Showing the love of God by being with an individual is one way of showing comfort that goes beyond words itself. Just the act of being there is a comfort. Remember that that's the type of comfort that God often gives. It's just the assurance of His presence. And He reminds us that He loves us as we suffer these trials. In a very similar way, just the physical act of being there can communicate the love of God that you have for that individual. It's communicated by the prayers that are shared together, by the phone call even to say, I'm praying for you in this situation.

In verse 6 Paul says we are afflicted and comforted for your comfort and salvation. We can never take someone else's punishment on our backs and bear that. That right belongs to Jesus Christ alone. So, what does this mean? How is it that our affliction and our comfort works for the comfort and salvation of the church? By loving each other in a self-sacrificing way, following the example of Christ, who laid down His life for us.

In verse 7 we see that we comfort others through a steadfast hope in Jesus Christ. It's like knowing that the cavalry is on its way in the midst of a battle. Think of the comfort that can be given to the soldier who's standing next to you. If you can tell them in the midst of that battle, hold on, the cavalry is coming. And we know that there is a steadfast hope because the faith that we have in Jesus Christ is grounded on the sure words that He gives, that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Question

1. What are we to do when we have been comforted?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would comfort others with the comfort we have been given.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Praise: Psalm 91A:10-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 - Many Waters

In this chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul confronts trusting in things other than God, and especially trusting in ourselves. The very first portion of this passage describes a deep despair that Paul was facing. He probably has in mind here what happens in Acts chapter 19. Paul spent over two years laboring among the Ephesians, and there was great fruit that was granted to the ministry there. And then, the city turned against Paul and against the gospel so much that Paul had to hide for fear of his life and others of the church were seized and were taken to trial. And Paul describes a despair that came on him because of this. His life's work seemingly was coming crashing down around him. And you might expect Paul, as one of the superheroes of the Bible, to shed off that bad thing that happened, and with bullets bouncing off his chest and flying through walls, to go and rescue the church and to not lose heart and to go forward with the work of the gospel. But that's not what Paul describes. He describes his life as being burdened beyond measure, despairing of life, having the sentence of death in his heart. He reveals a side of himself that is at the point of giving up. Do the saints ever despair? Yes, they do. Do they walk through the valley of the shadow of death? Do they wrestle in dark nights, wondering what tomorrow is going to bring and just how am I going to get up and face the day? Do they reach the point of saying, It's over. Paul had reached that point. But God had a purpose in this. And the purpose was to teach him to place his trust in God.

Self-confidence is idolatry. And God hates idolatry. More than that, God loves you so much that He will not let that idol have sway in your heart. Rather, He would have you cling to Christ and to Him alone. Self-confidence runs deep in us. Sin is something that gets down deep into our hearts. We think of ourselves as being strong, wherever that strength comes from, myself. Paul says do not trust yourself but trust in God. Realize that the opposite of trusting in self is not despair. You might reason that as soon as you stop trusting in yourself that you lose all hope whatsoever. But instead of despair, Paul says, trust in God who raises the dead, and who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us. God is worthy of our trust. Has He delivered you previously? Then take yourself to God. A final application is to pray for each other. The application is to see God at work, to pray for each other in the midst of trial, to see the gift in that trial of fellowship with God and with other believers.

Question

1. What was the purpose of Paul's trial?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those in the church going through various trials.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Praise: Psalm 66A:6-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 - Boasting in the Lord

When Paul talks about boasting, he has in mind the idea of expressing where our confidence is. If you're boasting in your wisdom, your intelligence, your strength, your beauty, your boasting is in something wrong. It's prideful arrogance. But if your confidence is in the Lord, then your boasting is in that which is true. In Galatians, Paul says, God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of Jesus Christ. If my confidence is in myself, God forbid that I should boast. But if it's in Christ, then I may boast all the day long.

There are six ways that Paul describes his confidence and his boasting. First of all, he says that he has a clear conscience. He gloried in the Lord for the grace that God gave so that he could serve the church with a clear conscience. He could look back without any pangs that he had done wrong to the Corinthian church. That leads to the second demonstration of his boasting. He says that he had integrity in all his dealings with them. Paul uses the words simplicity and godly sincerity to describe his conduct. He did not have ulterior motives, he was genuine. He was there because of his love for Christ, for his confidence that the Lord was doing His work among the Corinthians. He wasn't boasting in himself. He was glorying in what God was doing. Because of that, he longed to be part of it. That leads to the third demonstration, the grace of God. Paul contrasts his service to the Corinthians with worldly wisdom. He would have faced temptations to be pragmatic to be "successful" in the world's eyes. But instead he is resting on the Spirit and the power, confident that the Lord is the one who does this work. Fourthly, Paul says I have nothing to hide in my conduct towards you. My trust in Christ is evident to all, says Paul, and the way I was with you is the way I am with the entire world. The fifth demonstration is consistency. He says he was the same way in what he wrote as he was in person. That too rests on the confidence that he has in Jesus Christ. If he were to boast in his own worldly wisdom and boast in his own ability to persuade, you could see how that would change and shift the message that he might present in order to persuade some. Instead, Paul rests on Jesus Christ and His power to save. The final demonstration of his confidence, of his boasting, is being God-pleasing rather than man-pleasing. He places all of his work in the context of that great judge of all, the one who knows the thoughts of our hearts.

Question

1. What is good boasting?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would boast in what the Lord is doing.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Praise: Psalm 34:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Corinthians 1:15-24 - Message and Messenger

In this passage, Paul talks about a messenger and a message. Paul himself being the messenger and the gospel of Jesus Christ being the message. And he's concerned that the Corinthians have confused the two. And in rejecting the one, they are in danger of rejecting the other, and rejecting Paul, they are in danger of rejecting the message, Jesus Christ.

In this passage, Paul is burdened by the Corinthians' relationship to Jesus Christ. And the offense that he had brought by the correction that he had spoken to the Corinthians had led some of the Corinthians to plug up their ears to Paul. They didn't want to hear what he had to say. Paul's burden for Jesus Christ comes through when he says, listen to the message that comes through me. The message of Jesus Christ can be confused with the messenger to the point that you miss the message by turning away the messenger.

Paul planned on going back to Corinth. On his way to Macedonia, he would stop in Corinth, and then on his way back from Macedonia, he'd stop there again. But Paul was led to change his plans. His previous visit had brought great sorrow to the apostle and to the Corinthian church as we see in chapter 2. When Paul came to Corinth that he had to confront certain individuals and certain errors that were existing in the Corinthian church. And 1 Corinthians talks about several of those. In this previous visit, Paul comes and as a shepherd, he uses the Word of God and he uses the authority that God has given to bring correction to a church. Paul wrote another letter to the Corinthians, one that we don't have in existence today. It's sometimes called the sorrowful letter. And it's apparent that he poured out his heart for these dear people of God. He calls them his brothers and sisters in Christ. And yet, he is grieved by the temptation and the sin that has come to them. The Corinthians used the occasion of that correction to close up their hearts to Paul. They even say you went back on your words, you changed your plan, when Paul graciously and prudently decided not to come at this point and to bring further correction. This comes through in verse 17 where Paul says, 'I didn't make my plans lightly. I didn't make my plans like the world make plans.'

Question

1. Why were the Corinthians upset at Paul?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would take Godly correction well.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Praise: Psalm 23B - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Corinthians 1:15-24 - The Sureness of Our Saviour

Paul is less concerned with what the Corinthians think about him personally than he is with what they think about Jesus Christ. He is concerned that as they turn away from the messenger, that they're in danger of turning away from the message of Jesus Christ. When there's tension or disagreement, it's very easy to begin to think of our own concerns, reputation, selfish interests in that conflict, and then begin to plan how to defend ourselves. And instead of that, Paul lets all of those personal concerns go by the wayside, and he draws them right into the message that he was bringing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In verses 17 and following, the faithfulness of God and the message of Jesus Christ becomes Paul's subject. He wants to make sure that the church has not lost sight of the Savior because of any of the deficiencies of the messenger. See the great joy that Paul has in what Jesus has done. Jesus Christ is not a fickle messenger. There's no inconsistency in Him. He is the yes, the completion of the promises of God. Paul is saying, 'The offense that I have caused is leading you to lose sight of the foundation of our faith. You're letting that offense, letting that correction, letting temptations turn you away from the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, one Son of God who has sacrificed for us'. In short, he is concerned that the message of the gospel is being lost as they turn away from the messenger.

In verses 21 and 22, Paul uses words that describe the sureness of our relationship in Christ. He says that God has established us. And that word carries authority in it. That the Father in Christ has the authority to claim us as His own. He says that He has anointed us. That's a word that is especially significant in thinking of what Jesus Christ has done for us. It's an anointing that God gives to the offices in the Old Testament, and it's a word that he applies to the priesthood of all believers. As we are brought into the presence through Jesus Christ, he says, you belong in this special way. You are anointed. Not only anointed, but you are sealed. We might call that the proof of purchase. He's saying, you belong to me. And how do we know that? Because the Father and the Son have given the Spirit to us. We have a guarantee, like a deposit, that we belong to God.

Question

1. How does Jesus fulfil promises?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Praise: Psalm 35:1-7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com