



Paul & The Corinthians (~50-58 AD)

- **First Visit** - Paul's 2nd Journey (Acts 18)
- **First Letter** - Paul's "former" letter (1 Co. 5:9) - lost
- Corinthians send a letter to Paul (1 Co. 7:1) - lost
- **Second Letter** - Paul sends "1st Corinthians" from Ephesus
- **Second Visit** - The "painful" visit (2 Co. 2:1)
- **Third Letter** - Paul's "severe" letter (2 Co. 2:3-4; 7:8, 12) - lost
- **Fourth Letter** - Paul sends "2 Corinthians" from Macedonia
- **Third Visit** - Paul 3rd Journey (Acts 19-21; 20:2-3)

Issues in the Corinthian Church

- Immorality
- Preference
- False teachers

2 Corinthians in a Phrase

The Apostle Paul Defends His Ministry and Message

2 Corinthians at-a-Glance

Concerns Past	Generosity Present	Authority Future
Chs. 1-7	Chs. 8-9	Chs. 10-13

2 Corinthians 1:1-11 Outline

1:1-2 - Greeting

1:3-7 - God is Our Comforter

1:8-11 - Our Comforter Delivers Us

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1-2 ESV

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV

6 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17 ESV

5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. 7 Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:5-7 ESV

We must never think that trouble is an accident. For the believer, everything is a divine appointment.

There are only three possible outlooks a person can take when it comes to the trials of life. If our trials are the products of “fate” or “chance,” then our only recourse is to give up. Nobody can control fate or chance. If we have to control everything ourselves, then the situation is equally as hopeless. But if God is in control, and we trust Him, then we can overcome circumstances with His help.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary

8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9a ESV

But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

2 Corinthians 1:9b-10 ESV

11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 2:11 ESV

How do you know you're relying on yourself?

I'm "FINE"

- Freaked out
- Insecure
- Neurotic
- Emotional

How do you know you're relying on God?

RELY

- Remember His promises
- Expect His deliverance
- Listen to godly friends
- Yield your fears