

Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Introduction (2 Corinthians 1:1-2)

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

- 1. Corinth was a wicked place.**
- 2. Corinth opposed Christianity.**
- 3. Corinthian believers struggled with transformation.**
- 4. False teachers were trying to undermine Paul's authority.**
- 5. Suffering was seen as a sign of weakness!!**

Three Reasons God might allow Suffering

1. To Show you His Character (3-4a; 5)
2. To Equip you to Comfort others (v.4b; 6-7)
3. To Help you be Dependent on him (8-11)

1. To Show You His Character (2 Corinthians 1:3-4a & 5)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies** and **God of all comfort**, ⁴who comforts us in **all our affliction**,
⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Paraklésis - Comfort, Paraklétos - The Helper

How does God Comfort?

- Presence - Psalm 34:18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
- Hope - Psalm 119: 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.
- Power - 1 Timothy 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2. To Equip you to Comfort Others (2 Corinthians 1:4b; 6-7)

⁴...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**...

⁶If 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.

3. To Help you be Dependent on him (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the **affliction** we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly **burdened** beyond our **strength** that we **despaired of life** itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the **sentence of death**. But that was to make us **rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead**. ¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You 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.

Big Idea: God has a purpose for your pain.

Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1–11

- What did God speak to you this weekend?
- Why is Paul explaining his sufferings?
- How has God shown you His character in your suffering?
- What does it look like to be comforted by God?
- How have you experienced God using your pain to help someone else?
- How can pain help you become more dependent on God?

Spend some extended time in prayer as a group, focusing on these two things:

- Thank God for His trustworthy and faithful character.
- Ask God to comfort those in your group who are experiencing pain.