

## 2 Corinthians

### Lesson #2, Chapter 1:1-11

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this study. Make sure you spend time in prayer asking the Lord for His help and insight before you dive into the lesson.

1. How does Paul describe himself in verse 1?
2. Notice in verse 1 that Paul calls himself “an apostle by the will of God.” The Greek word for apostle means “one who is sent.” Paul is sent to preach and teach about Jesus Christ because it is God’s will for him. How would knowing that it is God’s will help Paul to persevere when things are difficult?
3. Define *comfort*, *affliction*, and *sufferings*. What do you learn?
4. What character qualities do you observe about God from verse 3?
5. Explain the terms *Father of Mercies* and *God of all comfort*. What is so significant about how they are phrased?
6. List at least 5 observations about comfort from verses 3-4.

7. According to verses 3-4, when we comfort others do we have to be going through the same trouble as they are? What does that tell you about God's comfort?
  
8. What else do you learn about comfort from the following verses: Ps. 86:17; Is. 51:12; Matt. 5:4; 2 Cor. 7:6; Eph. 6:22; 1 Thess. 3:7-8; 4:18; 2 Thess. 2:16-17; Philem. 7?
  
9. What is the correlation between sufferings and comfort from verse 5?
  
10. What does Paul mean when he says the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance? See Rom. 6:5-7; 8:17; Phil. 3:10 and 1 Pet. 4:12-13.
  
11. What do you learn about Paul's attitude toward suffering from verses 6-7?
  
12. How does learning about the wider scope of our trials and comforts (from verses 6-7) help you when you're going through difficulty?
  
13. Why did Paul want the Corinthians to know about the affliction that came to him in Asia (verses 8-11)?
  
14. What does Paul mean *we had the sentence of death within ourselves*? What was the purpose of that trial (verse 9)?

15. What qualities about God did Paul focus on in the midst of his trials (verses 9-10)?
  
16. From this section in verses 3-11 we see that there is purpose in trials. Review what you have learned, then answer, "What is God's purpose for allowing trials in my life?"
  
17. We also see from these verses the unity of the body of Christ. How is the unity of the body to be a comfort to you in trials?
  
18. What are some practical ways that you can find comfort from God?

God is God; He see and hears  
All our troubles, all our tears.  
Soul forget not, 'mid thy pains,  
God o'er all forever reigns.

Fear not death, nor Satan's thrusts,  
God defends who in Him trusts;  
Soul, remember, in thy pains,  
God o'er all forever reigns.

For this life's long night of sadness  
He will give us peace and gladness.  
Soul, remember, in thy pains,  
God o'er all forever reigns.

C. H. Spurgeon