

2 Corinthians 1:1-24 **Fellowship in Suffering**

Greetings

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to God Who provides comfort for those in tribulation

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 tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Suffering for Christ

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. ⁶ Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. ⁷ And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, ¹¹ you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Godly conduct in Tribulation

¹² For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you. ¹³ For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end ¹⁴ (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Coming back through Macedonia to Corinth and on to Jerusalem

¹⁵ And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit-- ¹⁶ to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea.

¹⁷ Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No? ¹⁸ But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us--by me, Silvanus, and Timothy--was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Anointed by God – Stand by Faith

²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. ²³ Moreover I call God as witness against my

soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Greetings [2 Corinthians 1:1-2]

- ✚ Paul was not selected to be an Apostle by the will of men, but by God Himself. [Acts 9:10-19, 22:1-16]
 - ✧ God sent the Resurrected Jesus Christ to meet Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, and Jesus appointed Ananias to lay his hands on Saul (Paul) that he might receive his sight.
 - ✧ Ananias laid his hands on Saul (Paul) and Saul (Paul) received his sight and was filled (anointed) with the Holy Spirit.
- ✚ Timothy is with Paul who had waited with the brethren in Ephesus for him to arrive from Corinth. [1 Corinthians 16:10-11, 2 Corinthians 1:1]
- ✚ The letter is addressed to the Church in Corinth, and to be shared with all the Saints in Achaia (Peloponnese Greece).
- ✚ God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are the source of grace which brings us peace.
 - ✧ Khane Shalom (grace to you and peace) is a common greeting Paul used frequently in his epistles.

Praise to God Who provides comfort for those in tribulation [2 Corinthians 1:3-4]

- ✚ By providing comfort to us as we suffer tribulation, God also enables us to extend the same comfort to others suffering tribulation.
 - ✧ God is worthy of all praise, because of the plan of Salvation through the mercy of God extended to us through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins.
 - ✧ That comfort comes in the knowledge God has revealed concerning the rewards that will follow for those who believe and remain faithful to God.

Suffering for Christ [2 Corinthians 1:5-11]

- ✚ In our ministry of the Gospel, we find that occasions of suffering for Christ abound everywhere.
 - ✧ Our suffering is meant as encouragement for you when you also face tribulation, that you may be able to endure similar tribulation to the end and be saved. [Matthew 10:22, 24:9-13, Mark 13:11-13, 1 Corinthians 4:12-13]
 - ✧ Knowing that you are not alone in suffering for Christ works consolation and encouragement for you to endure to Salvation.
 - ✧ Our source of comfort, knowing the promises of God, is also for your consolation and Salvation.
 - ✧ Our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.
- ✚ Paul wants the Corinthians to know the severity of the suffering he and his company encountered in Asia.
 - ✧ Burdened beyond measure and strength, to the point that they even despaired of life.
 - ✧ The sentence of death was so imminent they knew they could not trust in their own ability, but in God Who raises the dead.
 - ✧ God delivered them from death in the past, is delivering them now, and Paul has confidence that God will continue to deliver them in the future.
 - ✧ Paul is grateful for the help he received through the prayers of the Corinthians for himself and his company, that their deliverance will result in many persons giving thanks to God on their behalf.

Godly conduct in Tribulation [2 Corinthians 1:12-14]

- † Paul and company have a clear conscience that they conducted themselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity. Not with human wisdom, but by the grace of God.
- ✧ Paul desires that the grace of God working in him and his company may be poured out more abundantly toward the Church in Corinth.
- ✧ There is no hidden message in this letter, and Paul wants the Corinthians to understand as they understood before.
- ✧ In the Day of the Lord Jesus, Paul will rejoice in the saints of Corinth, and hopes they also will rejoice in him.

Coming back through Macedonia to Corinth and on to Jerusalem

- † Paul's plan was to go from Ephesus in Asia through Macedonia and on to Athens and Corinth, then return to Macedonia and back to Corinth and be sent from Corinth to Judea.
- ✧ Paul had been faithful to preach Jesus Christ the Son of God to the Corinthians with Silvanus and Timothy.
- ✧ Their message had been positive in Christ Jesus, as all the promises of God in Christ are positive and certain.
- ✧ All their ministry is done for the glory of God.

Anointed by God – Stand by Faith

- † The anointing is from God Who has established us with you in Christ.
- † God has given us the seal of the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee of all His promises.
- † Paul has delayed coming to Corinth to spare them, not that he feels he has dominion over their faith, but is a fellow worker for their joy.
- † They stand by faith.