

Sunday, January 10th, 2021

2nd Corinthians 1:1-7

Comfort in Christ

Theme Verse of the Year: *II Corinthians 4:16-18*

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

<p>Relate Use this question to begin conversation around the theme of the passage.</p>	<p>What was your Favorite Vacation? Did you visit a place, specific people, or both?</p> <p>Share some of the difficult situations you have faced in life. (eg. Work, relationships, money, health, failure, disappointments).</p> <p>How do difficulties change people, for better or for worse?</p> <p>Have you ever had to walk with someone through a season of suffering, or has someone walked with you? – share the story.</p>
<p>The Passage Theme</p>	<p>“God comforts us in our suffering so that we may be able to offer help to others who suffer.”</p>
<p><i>Richard L. Pratt, Jr., Homan New Testament Commentary. I and II Corinthians.</i></p>	<p>Background:</p> <p>This letter was probably written about A.D. 55-57 from Macedonia or Ephesus during Paul’s third missionary journey. Paul wrote to the church in the city of Corinth, the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia. Paul had planted this church during his second missionary journey. The original audience in Corinth contained members from all levels of society, but consisted mostly of people who were neither rich, wise, nor of noble birth. the audience had sat under the ministry of Paul, Apolos, and Peter. At the time of writing this letter, fasle apostles had influenced the Corinthain Christians and begun to turn them against Paul. This letter is to refute the false apostles, to mend his relationship with the Corinthians, to bring about repentace in the church, and to ensure the collection for the impoverished saints in Jerusalem.</p>

Pastor will spend next few months preaching from the Second Corinthians. (It's good to have the overview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lfPK2vfC>

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The Passage

II Corinthians 1:1-7

Verses 1-2

Richard L. Pratt, Jr., *Homan New Testament Commentary. I and II Corinthians.*

Verses 3-7

Ask someone to read again

Watch the bible Project Video to get a good overview of II Corinthians.

Have Someone read out loud the verses for today II Corinthians 1:1-7

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Paul Identifies himself as the apostle of Jesus christ, one of thirteen special emissaries whom Christ ordained as the foundation of the church.(Eph2:20). The title “apostle” gives authority over believers and makes clear that this is not merely a personal letter/note. Paul’s apostolic position came **by the will of god**, not by human authorization.

Paul wrote this letter to the church of God in Corinth, the Greek city to which 1 corinthians was also addressed. The Church, or entire congregation, received this letter, which was probably read aloud in church meetings. Although Paul sometimes used the term church (to denote the universal body of Christ throught the world, here he designated a particular local **church**. As the body of Christ, the church belongs only to god, and therefore is the church of God.

Paul Offered one of his common benidictions as he began this letter, hoping for grace and peace for the Corinthians. Paul began all his canonical letters with a wish of grace and peace for his readers. “

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

The Apostle Paul spent roughly one-quarter of his missionary career in prisons. John McRay wrote in Christian History:

Roman imprisonment was preceded by being stripped naked and then flogged—a humiliating, painful, and bloody ordeal. The bleeding wounds went untreated as prisoners sat in painful leg or wrist chains. Mutilated, bloodstained clothing was not replaced, even in the cold of winter. Most cells were dark, especially the inner cells of a prison, like the one Paul and Silas inhabited in Philippi. Unbearable cold, lack of water, cramped quarters, and sickening stench from few toilets made sleeping difficult and waking hours miserable. Because of the miserable conditions, many prisoners begged for a speedy death. Others simply committed suicide.

V3-5

“Paul begins describing his hardships on a positive note. The formula **Praise be to... God** derived from the Old Testament, but Paul modified it to be praise be to **God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**. This modification demonstrates that Paul saw Christianity as one with Old Testament religion, but not precisely the same.

What is difference between comfort and mercy? How might they be related?

Paul added that the Father has compassion and all comfort. This praise also derives from the Old testament. (Is 51:12; 66:13) compassion denotes God’s mercy/unmerited favor and his concern for the plight of those who suffer. Comfort is what gives to those who suffer. This terms were so appropriate because Paul was about to describe his own troubles in suffering for the Gospel. Paul could bring comfort to others with the comfort he received from Christ.”

V5

The Sufferings of Christ extend from christ to his followers. Believers fill up... Christ’s afflictions because the church is his body(see Col. 1:24; cf. Phil. 3:10). This pairing of Gospel fundamentals may be seen at other places. Just as Christ “Sufferings” in death overflow, so also resurrection “comfort” overflows through Christ.

What are the sufferings that we all share in common? How do both affliction and comfort result in Positive things?

<p><i>Paul Barnet, The new International Commentary, on the New testament.</i></p>	
<p><i>Richard L. Pratt, Jr., Homan New Testament Commentary. I and II Corinthians</i></p>	<p>V6-7</p> <p>“Corinthians benefited when the apostles were distressed, Paul’s experiences had been the Corinthians’ comfort. As he ministered at great personal cost, he brought comfort and salvation to those who heard this message. Further, the comfort believers received from Paul’s suffering produce(d)... patient endurance in the midst of their own sufferings.</p> <p>As Christians we are to remain faithful even in difficult times. Endurance describe how believers must continue in faithful service to the end.</p> <p>Corinthians faced trails, disappointments, and conflicts. But Paul believed they had saving faith in Christ and that they would endure. He hoped this because he knew the Corinthians shared in apostles comfort as well as their sufferings.”</p> <p>How do we know that if we share in Christ’s sufferings we will be comforted?</p> <p>What will our comfort be?</p> <p>Do you suppose Paul’s confidence in the endurance of Corinthian Church was encouraging? How might your confidence in others, in their progress in the faith, be an encouragement in a difficult time? Has someone else ever encouraged you in this way?</p>
<p>Application</p> <p>Put Your Hope In God</p>	<p>How much benefit do you think it would be to memorize the promises that god gives us in Christ? How might this be of benefit in times of suffering?</p> <p>Memorize Theme Verse of the Year this week. State of the Church.</p> <p>II Corinthians 4:16-18</p> <p>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.</p>
<p>Pray</p> <p><i>Modified from the Book of Common Prayer</i></p>	<p>O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly request that you relieve those among us and among our families and friends who are in great need of your compassion and comfort. Look upon us with eyes of mercy; comfort us with a sense of your goodness; preserve us from the temptations of the enemy; and</p>

	<p>give us patience under our affliction. In your good timing, restore us to health, and enable us to live our lives in awe of your glory; and grant that finally we may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>
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