

Paul's Second  
Letter to the  
Corinthians

# FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies  
and God of all comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3

### Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
- Summary Statement
- Discussion Questions
- Outline & Lesson

### 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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 1:3-11 (continued)

<sup>8</sup> For 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. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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

### Summary Statement

Paul praises God, the Father of our Lord, and says the purpose of his afflictions is so God might comfort him and thus he would be able to comfort others. He mentions his afflictions while in Asia as being beyond his strength to bear but were for the purpose of causing him to rely on God and not himself. Paul is confident that as God has delivered in the past so will he now and in the future. He asks for the Corinthian's prayers, knowing that his blessing from God comes through the prayers of many and that many will therefore praise God.

### Discussion

#### #1

1. Paul begins verse 3 with what sounds like a traditional Jewish praise – “Blessed be God.” But he Christianizes it by introducing the relationship between God and Christ. What part of the verse shows this? Paul also introduces the connection between Christ and believers. What part of the verse indicates this?

### 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

**Discussion**

**#1**

**(scripture)**

### Discussion

### #2

2.The ESV Study Bible says, “Comfort is the overall disposition that comes from resting in God’s sovereign and loving rule as manifested in Christ’s lordship.” Read Isa. 40 which describes how God is a comfort to his people. Which actions and attributes of God are mentioned that cause Gods’ people of all times to find rest in Him as the God of all comfort?



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Isaiah 40:1–31 (ESV) Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ...

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ...

<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. ...

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

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<sup>13</sup> Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? ...

<sup>15</sup> Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; ...

<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. ...

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

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<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing ...

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

### Discussion

#### #3

3. Not all afflictions are the same. Read 2 Cor 4:8 and Rom 8:35 for one kind of affliction. Then compare with 2 Cor 7:5 and Phil 1:17 to see another kind of affliction? What are these two kinds of affliction? Which did Paul suffer from?

### 2 Corinthians 4:8

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

### Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

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### 2 Corinthians 7:5

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within.

### Philippians 1:17

The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

### Discussion

#### #4

4. Here are some of the afflictions Paul experienced mentioned in 2 Cor: 4:7–12; 6:4–10; 11:23–29. Here are the accounts of Paul's afflictions in Acts: 9:23–25; 14:19–20; 17:5–9; 19:28–41; 21:27–36; 16:20–22; 17:6–7; 18:13; 19:26–27; 21:20–21; 21:28; 24:5–6; 16:16–40; 14:19. Read as many of these as your time allows. Can you see instances of both kinds of affliction that you found in the previous question? From these references, did God strengthen Paul to bear up under these afflictions? Or did he deliver him out of them all?

### I. God Comforts in Affliction vv 3-7

#### A. Praise for God v3

##### 1. God and Father of our Lord v3a

- a. His relationship to Christ
- b. Christ's relationship to us

##### 2. God of all comfort v3b

a. Comfort = resting in God's sovereign and loving rule

b. Comfort =

1) OT - relief from sorrow and distress

2) NT – called alongside – solace, consolation, exhortation –  
Holy Spirit (see John 14:16-17)

### B. Purpose of Affliction vv4-7

1. Cause us to seek comfort v4
2. Equip us to comfort others v4
3. Share in Christ's sufferings and comfort vv5-7

## II. God Delivers from Affliction vv 8-11

A. Example - Affliction in Asia v8

B. Purpose - Reliance on an omnipotent God v9

C. Confidence – the past, present, and future of God's deliverance  
v10

D. Thanksgiving - for the help of prayer v11