

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:1-7

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX781 SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Comfort, Ministry, Servanthood, Mercy, Peace

2nd Corinthians is known as Paul's "Unread Letter"

Other than the book of Revelation – it is understood to be a very rarely read letter and that should not be.

It's a tender, personal letter and Paul opens himself up and lets us in to his battles, his struggles - - his fears and victories.

There is perhaps no greater encouragement to someone who is about to suffer some pain or procedure – than to hear from someone who has gone thru it. If my heart is going to have surgery then I wanna hear about it from the man that has had the same surgery – tell me how to deal with this!

Background to The 1st Corinthian Connection and the Reason for This 2nd Letter

2 Corinthians 1:1-7

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**. **: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**. **: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**.

The Location(s): sent to the church at Corinth Achaia or Corinth Greece which was a city that was populated by Greeks and was a flourishing cultural center for Greek life. But 146 bc. the Romans attacked and destroyed Corinth. It wasn't rebuilt until 44 bc by Julius Caesar at which time many Italians then relocated from Italia to Corinth. It was roman worship that set up Aphrodite as its chief goddess which explains why sexual immorality was an often addressed issue in 1st Corinthians. A culture will always become like the god or gods it worships. It seems like the worship of Aphrodite is very much alive here in California – so let's turn to 2nd Californians chapter 1.

The Theme:
Having God's Heart in Christian Service

Introduction:

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**.

The Calling / (Pauls' authority was being undermined)

THIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE
SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) Where's God when it hurts? v. 3-4

: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**.

1a.) He's enthroned in heaven above v. 3

:3 **Blessed** be the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**.,

Having the Right Understanding - - Jesus Christ the Son of God and God the Father reminds us that there could be no closer relationship.

Jesus Prayed / Jesus Depended / Jesus Obeyed / Jesus Submitted.

Remembering Heaven in all of our Sufferings

Hebrews 5:8

though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,
“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Verse 3b

the **Father of mercies** and **God of all comfort**,

The Originator of **Mercy(ies)** - - The Originator of **Comfort(s)**

παράκλησις paraklesis, *par-ak'-lay-sis*; from 3870; imploration, exhortation, solace: — comfort, consolation, exhortation, entreaty.

παράκαλεω parakaleo, *par-ak-al-eh'-o*; from 3844 and 2564; to call near, i.e. invite, invoke (by imploration, exhortation or consolation): — beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), entreat, pray.

Why is this important? - - because the root to these wonderful words are found in God Himself.

The root of “Comfort” is translated through the Bible as comforter. Comforting, encouragement, consolation, exhortation.

John 14:16-18

And I will pray to the **Father**, and **He** will give you another **Helper**, that **He** may abide with you forever - - :17 the **Spirit** of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you. :18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Helper παράκλητος parakletos, *par-ak'-lay-tos*; an intercessor, consoler: — advocate, comforter.

WHERE'S GOD WHEN IT HURTS?

1b.) He's where the trouble is

v. 4

:4 who **comforts** us in all our **tribulation**,

“*all*” meaning that in **every issue of life** – He has more of, an unlimited amount of, abounding in the needed comfort for our suffering.

tribulation qli+yiß thlipsis, *thlip'-sis*; pressure, anguish, burdens, persecution, trouble, worries and anxieties.

Trouble was Paul's Middle Name.

But Wait – Paul was a very brilliant and well educated man. He was a roman citizen and a religious leader in high standing – why put up with this tough stuff.

1c.) He's here where it hurts

v. 4

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

tribulation qli+yiß thlipsis, *thlip'-sis*; pressure, anguish, burdens, persecution, trouble, worries and anxieties.

...but Jack - what shall we comfort them with?

“...the **comfort** with which we ourselves are (*have been, are being, shall be*) **comforted** by **God**.”

any pa◇ß pas, *pas*; all forms of. every, the whole of. all manner of things possible or imagined.

Rethinking Suffering – Embracing the Opportunity

The more we suffer the more people are watching us.
To see how our faith endures and navigates us through the problem.

HOW I suffer sends a message to others.

Is my life sending a message of hope and peace and joy in the midst of suffering or not?

*Suffering hurts because that is the way you & I discover what God can do. How are we ever going to find the comfort of God, the strengthening of God, if we are not under any pressure or stress? It takes that to discover what God can do.
He is bigger to us when suffering comes.*

As Christians, we're guilty of being sloppy students and it shows. Because far too many Christians today worry, fret, manipulate and stress out rather than obeying God and resting in Jesus.
(escaping, ignoring, denying will never remove an issue)

Wrong Kind of Prayers

“Lord don't let any hardship or difficulty into my life. Build a bubble around me and shield me from any pain or sorrow.”

(that is the prayer of the baby Christian – the one that is shocked when hard times come upon them)

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death, Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that “*if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved.*” Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

————— *End of Study* —————

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