**October 6, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

25200 SR 46 Sorrento, FL 32776; 352.383.5052

Web Site: [www.RefugeSorrento.com](http://www.RefugeSorrento.com)

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Pastor and Diocesan**

**Elder Alfonzo Baptiste, Supply Pastor**

APOSTOLIC COMFORT

**2 Corinthians 1:1-12**

2 Corinthians is the second letter that Paul wrote to the church at Corinth. In this letter, we will see Paul trying to prove to these people his right of apostleship. There were some in this church at Corinth who believed Paul did not have this right. Paul says more about himself and his ministry in this letter, than he does in all of the others. Some people today would call this Paul's testimony.

The main lesson that we can find in this for ourself, is that ministering carries with it a great deal of suffering. This suffering takes many forms, the greatest of which is not being believed by fellow ministers. Paul's intentions are questioned, and he answered them. In this book, we will see a list of many of the things that Paul suffered to be able to minister. His afflictions were many and not just from the world, but from within the church, as well. In this book, we can see that there were times of joy with Paul, but there were also times of great sorrow. They were mingled together like seasoning on a food dish, some salt, some pepper.

***II Corinthians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy [our] brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:"***

Even in this very first verse of the letter, Paul says it was the will of God for him to be an apostle. Paul, in a real sense, is saying, I did not choose to be an apostle, God chose me. The Christians, at this time, were called saints, or brothers. It is not clear whether this letter was written from Cenchera, or not, but it was in Achaia. Achaia was the name used for the northwest portion of the Peloponnesus. There were many small towns in this area. Paul could have been speaking of any little town. This would be somewhere in the southern part of Greece. Paul immediately states that he is an apostle. He does not say, I think I am an apostle. He boldly states that he is. The word "apostle" means delegate, or ambassador of the gospel. In the official sense, it means commissioner of Christ, this meaning includes {with miraculous powers}. It can, also, mean messenger, or he that is sent. Paul was all of these things. We must notice in this that Paul always has someone to minister with him. In this particular instance, he has Timothy. He knows that Timothy is loyal to him. Timothy is Paul's student and would not differ with Paul at all. There are times when this type of loyalty is very important. Timothy is not the only one with Paul but is the closest to Paul in this instance. One of the reasons it is important to have the second minister that agrees with you, is for the prayer of agreement. Paul wants this church to know that his ministry is actually a revelation of Jesus Christ through Paul.

***II Corinthians 1:2 "Grace [be] to you and peace from God our Father, and [from] the Lord Jesus Christ."***

This is a greeting that Paul used many times and is more evidence that this letter was Paul's. It is a prayer of Paul's for them. He wished that God would give them this grace {unmerited favor}. He is explaining, also, that this is not just from Jesus as Saviour, but from the Father, as well.

***II Corinthians 1:3 "Blessed [be] God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;"***

Paul, never once, stopped speaking of the blessedness of God. "Father of mercies" just means that God is full of mercy for everyone who believes. There is no other comfort compared to the peace that God brings. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to comfort. He is even spoken of as the Comforter.

***II Corinthians 1:4 "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."***

Tribulation comes to the Christian, as well as to those of the world. This "comfort in tribulation" speaks of us having a peace in the midst of the tribulation. There is a rest for the Christian in Christ. The world may be falling apart around us, but we can have perfect peace within. The only way to truly sympathize with someone else is to have had the same problem yourself.

***II Corinthians 1:5 "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."***

When we receive Christ in us, we are partakers in His suffering, as well.

***Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."***

One of my favorite Scriptures explains this very well.

***Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."***

We suffer with Him, that we might reign with Him. If we are Christians, we are to be Christlike. We must bury this flesh with His burial, that we might rise with Him. Jesus quickens the spirit within us and makes us alive forever more.

***II Corinthians 1:6 "And whether we be afflicted, [it is] for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, [it is] for your consolation and salvation."***

Paul is saying to them, that his suffering and tribulations were endured by him without complaining, so that he could bring the gospel to them. Paul was willing to go through almost any hardship, if he thought in so doing, he could win some to Christ.

***II Corinthians 1:7 "And our hope of you [is] stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so [shall ye be] also of the consolation."***

Paul is just saying, that he will not give up on them. He, also, says to them, if they are to minister for Christ there will be sufferings that they will have to endure, as well. Paul says, if you allow yourself to die to this world, in Christ, you will share in His resurrection.

***II Corinthians 1:8 "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:"***

The persecution that Paul endured was so great, that, he would have welcomed death. We are not told just exactly which act of violence came to Paul while he was in Asia. We are told that it was almost more than he could bear. The one thing Paul wants them to learn from this, is that they, too, might be called upon to suffer. The Lord Jesus Christ did not deceive Paul. He told Paul that He would show him what he must suffer.

***Acts 9:16 "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."***

***II Corinthians 1:9 "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:"***

Paul knew that his life was in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was not fearful of physical death. He knew that there were many Jews who would like him killed. He, also, knew that he could do nothing about this. His trust was in the Lord. He also knew, if they killed his body, he would live on through Jesus Christ. Paul placed his trust in Jesus the same as we must do. We should all heed this Scripture in Hebrews.

***Hebrews 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."***

***II Corinthians 1:10 "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver [us];"***

Before we receive the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we are living unto death. We have no hope for the future. When we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we receive everlasting life.

***Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."***

***II Corinthians 1:11 "Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift [bestowed] upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."***

Paul was thanking them for praying for him. Every church is only as strong as the prayers that go up for it. Every minister needs the prayers of the congregation. Some people think that they cannot help the ministry, because they are not the minister. The job of intercessory prayer is just as important as the actual ministry. No one will come to the Lord, unless the Spirit woes him. The prayer, then, causes the Spirit to call to the person. You see, prayer is the number 1 reason for people being saved. Someone must care enough to pray for you.

***II Corinthians 1:12 "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."***

Paul is just saying, that he has a clear conscience. He has not tried to show how smart he is, but has tried to bring the good news of the gospel as simply as he could, so that all could understand. Paul has spoken the words that the Lord has given him for these people. He will not apologize for the message God has given him. The gospel is not complicated, but simple, so that all might receive it with joy in their heart. This is still the way the Lord expects His salvation message to go out. He wants it simple, so that all may understand. Using big words, elevate the person that is using them, but do nothing for the uneducated person who is trying to understand. Ministers are to keep it simple for all to understand. Ministry is not to make the minister feel important, but to cause people to come to Christ. The more who understand, the more who believe and come to Christ.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who wrote 2 Corinthians?
2. Who was it written to?
3. What was Paul trying to prove in this letter?
4. Some people today would call this Paul's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is the main lesson that we can take from the letter?
6. Who were most of Paul's afflictions from?
7. What does the author compare the joy and sorrow of Paul to?
8. Was it Paul's will to be an apostle? Explain.
9. What were the Christians called at the time Paul wrote this letter?
10. Where was Achaia?
11. What does Paul proclaim himself as in verse 1?
12. What does "apostle" mean?
13. Why does Paul have another minister working with him?
14. Why did Paul need Timothy at this time?
15. What is the benediction on the people spoken in verse 2?
16. What is "grace"?
17. What does "Father of mercies" mean?
18. Who is the Comforter?
19. What does the "comfort in tribulation" speak of?
20. Did Paul complain about his suffering?
21. Who did Paul's suffering benefit?
22. How badly had Paul suffered in Asia?
23. Why was Paul not fearful of death?
24. What is a very important job in the church, besides being the minister?
25. How had Paul ministered to them?