

<p><b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version</p>	<p><b>Observations</b> What does the text say?</p>	<p><b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p><b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?</p>
<p><b>2 Corinthians 1:1-11</b></p> <p><b>Greeting</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:  <b>2</b> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p><b>God of All Comfort</b></p> <p><b>3</b> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <b>4</b> 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. <b>5</b> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.[a]  <b>6</b> 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. <b>7</b> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.</p> <p><b>8</b> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers,[b] of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.  <b>9</b> 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. <b>10</b> 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.</p>			

## First Love

Lesson 15

2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4

Bible Text English Standard Version	Observations What does the text say?	Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?	Applications What does it mean to me?
<p><b>11</b> 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.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>a:</b> 2 Corinthians 1:5 Or <i>For as the sufferings of Christ abound for us, so also our comfort abounds through Christ</i></p> <p><b>b:</b> 2 Corinthians 1:8 Or <i>brothers and sisters</i>. The plural Greek word <i>adelphoi</i> (translated “brothers”) refers to siblings in a family. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, <i>adelphoi</i> may refer either to men or to both men and women who are siblings (brothers and sisters) in God’s family, the church</p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			
<p><b>2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4</b></p> <p><b>Paul's Change of Plans</b></p> <p><b>12</b> For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity[c] and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. <b>13</b> For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— <b>14</b> just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.</p> <p><b>15</b> Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. <b>16</b> I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. <b>17</b> Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? <b>18</b> As surely as God is faithful, our word</p>			

## First Love

Lesson 15

2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4

<b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version	<b>Observations</b> What does the text say?	<b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?	<b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?
<p>to you has not been Yes and No. <b>19</b> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. <b>20</b> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. <b>21</b> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <b>22</b> and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. <b>[d]</b></p> <p><b>23</b> But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. <b>24</b> Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.</p> <p><b>2:1</b> For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. <b>2</b> For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? <b>3</b> And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. <b>4</b> For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>c:</b> 2 Corinthians 1:12 Some manuscripts <i>holiness</i></p> <p><b>d:</b> 2 Corinthians 1:22 Or <i>down payment</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

As Christians, we are not promised freedom from trouble, but God does promise to comfort and help us in the midst of it. Just as we are blessed to be a blessing, we are comforted to be a comfort to others.

Consider the following verses. Which verse most strongly motivates you to answer God's call to be a godly Comforter?

**Romans 12:6, 8**

**6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

f: Romans 12:8 Or *gives aid*

**Galatians 6:2**

**2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

**11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

What types of things serve as roadblocks to you when given the opportunity to provide comfort?

## ***First Love***

Lesson 15

2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4

Space for Grace

---

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Think of a time when you were experiencing trouble. Who comforted you and how?
- Write a letter to someone that God wants you to encourage or comfort.



Prayer Requests

---