

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## II CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

Lesson 2

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Recall one particular detail from last week's lesson or lecture that stands out in your mind today and write it here.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. It has been said, *II Corinthians is saturated with encouragement*. It is with great expectancy that we begin our verse by verse study of II Corinthians this week. We will find encouragement even in the introductory verses of Paul's letter. Read and record one or two encouraging words or phrases from the following paragraphs:
  - a. II Corinthians 1:1,2
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. II Corinthians 1:3-7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. II Corinthians 1:8-11

Optional: Scan the entire letter of II Corinthians. Note your initial impression or a general observation.

3. Prayer is an important part of Bible study. Take a few moments now to express to the Lord your heart's desire and need in relationship to completing your lesson. Write your prayer here.


*As newborn babes,  
desire the pure milk of the Word,  
that you may grow thereby.  
I Peter 2:2 NKJV*

**SECOND DAY:** Read II Corinthians 1:1,2

1. In II Corinthians 1:1,2 the author began his letter with a salutation. How did he introduce himself? verse 1a
  - a. Notice the phrase, *by the will of God*. How does this validate Paul's credentials as an apostle?

Challenge: II Corinthians 1:1 reveals that Timothy was with Paul when he wrote this letter. Use the following verses to write a brief profile of Timothy: Acts 16:1; II Timothy 1:2a,5; I Corinthians 4:17.

2. According to II Corinthians 1:1b to whom was the letter written?
  - a. We know that Paul founded and established this church, yet in verse 1 he described it as *the church of God*. What does this tell you about:
    - (1.) Paul
    - (2.) the church
3. Consider the second part of Paul's salutation in II Corinthians 1:2. Paul often greeted his readers with these words. *Grace* is the translation of the Greek word *charis* and was a familiar word of greeting among Greeks. *Peace (shalom)* was the usual Jewish greeting. Why are *grace* and *peace* essential for all believers?
  - a. Through Whom do we have *grace* and *peace*?
  - b. What does it mean to you today to have:
    - (1.) grace
    - (2.) peace

*I love Your grace, I love Your mercy.*  
-selected 

**THIRD DAY:** Read II Corinthians 1:3-7

1. II Corinthians 1:3-7 has been a great source of encouragement and strength for Christians in difficult times. Write Paul's declaration of praise from II Corinthians 1:3 phrase by phrase. Selah – pause and think about this.

a. In verse 3 the word *mercies* can be translated *compassions*. What do you learn about mercy and compassion from Lamentations 3:22,23?

2. The word *comfort* in II Corinthians 1:3 is the Greek word *paraklesis* which means *one who comes alongside to help*. Here it conveys the idea of *strengthening* and *encouraging*. Observe the scope of God's comfort as you read II Corinthians 1:3b,4a. What do you see?

a. Provide a few synonyms for the word *tribulation*.

(1.) God's often uses His Word to comfort believers. Share a scripture that has comforted you in a time of suffering or affliction.

3. The words *comfort* or *consolation* occur ten times in II Corinthians 1:3-7. Consider one purpose for God's *comfort* as you complete verse 4b:

that \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ them which are in any \_\_\_\_\_,  
by the \_\_\_\_\_ wherewith we \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

a. Briefly share how you have experienced this.

b. What qualities are developed through suffering that enable us to comfort others?

4. Read II Corinthians 1:5-7. Paul chose to use his suffering and affliction as a channel for God's comfort to other Christians. What was the *effectual* result according to verse 6?

a. Consider the Phillips' translation of verse 7: *We are quite confident that if you have to suffer troubles as we have done, then, like us, you will find the comfort and encouragement of God.* What assurance do you receive from this?

5. How should II Corinthians 1:3-7 affect our attitude toward *tribulation* and *suffering*?

*You can be sure that the more we suffer for Christ,  
the more God will shower us with His comfort through Christ.*

II Corinthians 1:5 NLT

**FOURTH DAY:** Read II Corinthians 1:8-11

1. II Corinthians 1:8-11 is one sentence in the King James Version. We will take two days of our lesson to study these important verses, concentrating on verses 8,9 today. Think about the depth of Paul's *trouble* as you complete his statements from verse 8b,9a:
  - a. *that we were*
  - b. *above*
  - c. *insomuch that we*
  - d. *But we had the*
  
2. Although we do not know the exact nature of this trouble, II Corinthians 1:9b does reveal why the Lord allowed it. Print this purpose in all capital letters.
  - a. What does Psalm 118:8 say about this?
  
  - b. In what way do difficult circumstances separate us from man's help and cause us to completely depend on the Lord?
  
3. Consider this powerful declaration from II Corinthians 1:9: *God which raiseth the dead!* How do impossible situations become opportunities for God's power to be displayed?

*Pressed out of measure and pressed to all length;  
Pressed so intensely it seems, beyond strength.*

*Pressed into knowing no helper but God;  
Pressed into faith for the path that I trod.*

-selected

**FIFTH DAY:** Read II Corinthians 1:10,11

1. Observe Paul's statement of faith in II Corinthians 1:10. Notice God's deliverance includes the past, present and future. Write verse 10, personalizing it by replacing the pronouns *us* and *we* with your name.
  - a. How does this verse minister to you?
  
2. Read II Corinthians 1:11. Paul attributed his rescue from death as a gift from God in answer to the Corinthian believers' prayers. What was their response? Answer from verse 11b.
  
3. As you recognize the effectiveness of prayer through II Corinthians 1:10,11, how are you inspired and motivated to pray?

*There are multitudes of Christian workers ministering  
in churches and missions, in schools and colleges,  
in hospitals and clinics, in our military and our prisons,  
and with the poor and needy.*

*How much more could they accomplish  
if we partnered with them through prayer!*

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**SIXTH DAY:** Review II Corinthians 1:1-11

1. Note one discovery you made as you studied II Corinthians 1:1-11 concerning:
  - a. God
  
  - b. tribulation and suffering
  
  - c. comfort and consolation
  
  - d. prayer

2. Through this week's study how have you been:
  - a. encouraged
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. inspired
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. challenged
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What can you do today to comfort or encourage another believer?

*For whatsoever things were written aforetime  
were written for our learning,  
that we through patience  
and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.  
Romans 15:4*