

**HOLY MAN IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:
A study in I and II Corinthians
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**The Christian's Afflictions II Corinthians 1:1-11
February 13, 2014**

1:1-2 I. God speaks to His Church.

:1a A. Through faithful messengers

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother..."

The History of Paul's Seven-Year Ministry to the Corinthians

Paul's 1 st trip	cf. Acts 18:1-17	AD 50-52	18 months
Paul's 1 st letter	I Corinthians 5:9	?	
Paul's 2 nd letter	I Corinthians	AD 54-55	from Ephesus
Paul's 2 nd "painful" trip	II Cor. 2:1; 13:2	AD 55 or 56	
Paul's 3 rd "sorrowful" letter	II Cor. 2:3, 4	AD 55 or 56	
Paul's 4 th letter	II Corinthians	AD 55 or 56	from Macedonia
Paul's 3 rd and final visit	II Cor 13:1; Rom 16:1-2, 23	AD 56-57	

:1b B. To a struggling congregation

"To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia..."

cf. II Corinthians 2:3, 4; 13:1-5

- Ethically
- Doctrinally
- Relationally

:2 C. With an encouraging message

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- Grace cf. Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:5, 8, 9; Titus 3:4-7
- Peace cf. John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:7; Isaiah 66:12; Luke 2:14

Brief Outline of II Corinthians

Ch 1-2	Personal affirmation of the Apostle's true devotion
Ch 3-6	The true gospel and true ministry of the New Covenant
Ch 7	The nature of their true repentance
Ch 8-9	Exhortation to resume the collection
Ch 10-13	Answers to unfair personal criticisms

:3-10 II. God comforts His Church.

Reasons for Paul's and their discomfort:

- ◆ A major controversial disciplinary case in the church.
- ◆ Itinerant "super apostles" teaching a different gospel and questioning Paul's credentials.
- ◆ A lack of commitment to complete the offering for the Jerusalem saints.
- ◆ A minority of members who have not yet repented.

:3 A. It is His nature.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort..." cf. Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 40:1; 51:12; 66:13; II Corinthians 7:6

:4a B. It is universal.

"...who comforts us in all our affliction..." cf. Psalm 34:10; 37:25

:4b C. It is communicable.

"...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." cf. Romans 12:15

:5 D. It is organic.

"For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too." cf. Philippians 3:10; I Peter 4:13

:6 E. It is obligatory.
“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.”
cf. Colossians 1:24

:7 F. It is inevitable.
“Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.” cf. Romans 8:17, 18

:8-10 G. It is redemptive.
“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 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. 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.” cf. Acts 19:23f; I Cor 15:32; II Cor 12:9

:11 **III. God calls His Church to prayer.**
“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.” cf. Philippians 1:19; Colossians 4:3, 4

Bibliography

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