

II CORINTHIANS

PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Question: what are the deathly perilous situation was, God had delivered him from it. What promise does Paul say that holds for the future?

2 Cor 1:10 _____

Question: Paul indicates that deliverance from perils will also be needed in the future. To what might he be referring?

Question: what does Paul say is a very positive help in times of trial?

2 Cor 1:11 _____

James 5:16 _____

Question: even so, Paul reminds us that prayer is not a good work meriting God's favor. Rather, how does Paul characterize the answer to prayer?

Questions for Further Discussion.

What is the relationship between God's comfort of us and our comfort of others?

How are the sufferings of Christ related to the Christians sufferings?

How do you respond to pressures that seemed beyond your ability to handle?

Whom do you know that is under intense pressure right now? How would Paul have you pray for them this week?

Part Two: The God of All Comfort

Warm-up: have you been in the situation of physical danger where you were convinced that your very life was at risk? What did you do? Where did you look for comfort and aid? Did you find it?

Addresser and Addressee

Question: how is Paul's description of himself in verse one different from the address in First Corinthians?

1 Cor 1:1-3, 2 Cor 1:2 _____

Question: which associate does Paul mention in 1 Cor? In 2 Cor?

Question: there is also a geographical difference in the two addresses – what is that? How might this be significant?

Question: which part in both addresses is nearly identical?

God of All Comfort.

Question: glance ahead in the next five verses (3 to 7). What word comes up again and again?

Question: which other descriptor is parallel to that word in verse three?

2 Cor 1:3 _____

Question: is there any kind of comfort we might need that our Heavenly Father does NOT supply?

Question: what is the *main* comfort we received from God?

2 Cor 5:17-19 _____

And Furthermore...

Question: What are some of the many purposes that trials and sufferings in the life of a Christian may serve?

Question: which particular benefit of suffering does Paul highlight in verse four?

2 Cor 1:4 _____

Suffering with Christ.

Question: what do you think is meant by "the sufferings of Christ" in verse five?

1 Cor 1:5 _____

Question: no matter how severe suffering becomes the life of a believer, it is never worse than *whose*?

1 Pet 2:21-23 _____

Question: and no matter how severe suffering becomes in the life of a believer, it is always matched by what?

Question: we know something further. Complete the sentence: "Even suffering has a _____"

Rom 8:28 _____

Question: if you had to choose the single most important word in verse six, which would it be?

2 Cor 1:6-7 _____

Question: Paul had undergone much suffering during his ministry, and received much comfort. But it wasn't all about Paul. His suffering—indeed every part of his ministry—was aimed at *what*?

God the Raiser of the Dead.

Question: Paul now makes reference to an extremely traumatic episode in his life that had apparently taken place recently. He takes it for granted that the Corinthians are acquainted with it. Where does he say this event took place?

2 Cor 1:8 _____

Question: how severe was the trial?

Question: scholars are divided on whether the suffering Paul refers to was actual (physical suffering) or figurative (anguish of mind). If it was actual, to which episode might Paul be referring?

Acts 19:23-41 _____

Question: In verse 9, what do you think Paul means by "we had the sentence of death in ourselves"?

2 Cor 1:9 _____

Question: again, however, this severe trial served a purpose — what was that?

Question: what interesting – and appropriate — attribute of God does Paul note at the end of the verse?
