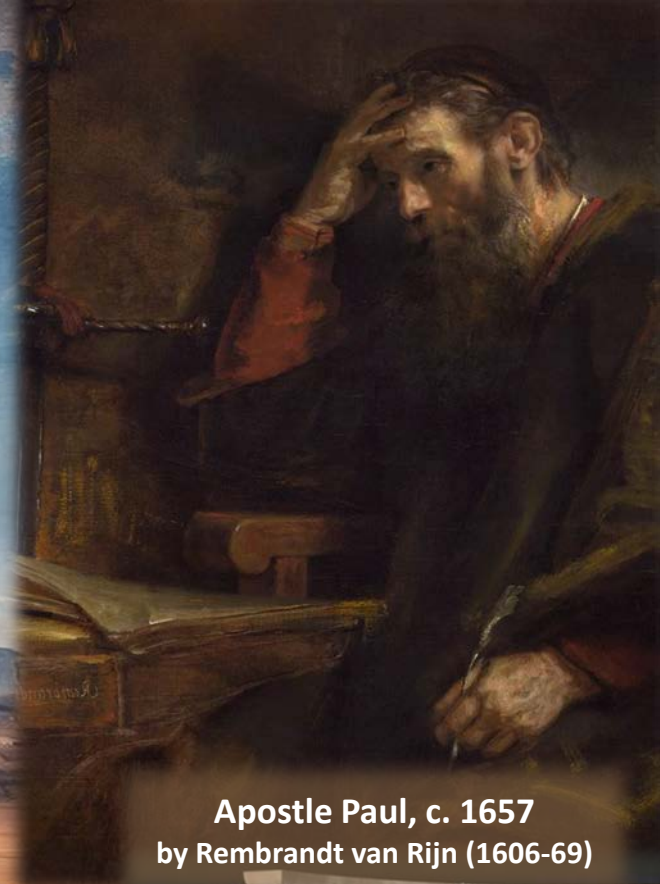


Apr 29 – Enjoying God’s Comfort – 2 Corinthians 1

Comfort in Corinth

Corinth with Acrocorinth, 1847
by Carl Anton Joseph Rottmann



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



1 Corinthians

chapter

from Ephesus

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mar 4 | United in Christ | 1 | No Divisions – Wisdom of God |
| 2. Mar 11 | Glorifying God | 6 | Bought with a Price |
| 3. Mar 18 | Keeping Commitments | 7 | Marriage for Life in Love |
| 5. Mar 25 | Influencing for Christ | 9-10 | All Things to All People |
| 6. Apr 1 | Easter Sunday – Sunrise Easter Service | | |
| 7. Apr 8 | Remembering the Sacrifice | 11 | Examine Oneself |
| 8. Apr 15 | Serving God's People | 12 | Gifts of Same Spirit & Lord |
| 8. Apr 22 | Understanding Love | 13 | Greatest of These Is LOVE |

2 Corinthians

chapter

from Macedonia

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| ☆ 9. Apr 29 | Enjoying God's Comfort | 1 | Afflicted for Your Comfort |
| 10. May 6 | Displaying the Gospel | 4 | Light Shone in Our Hearts |
| 11. May 13 | Becoming New | 5-6 | In Christ – a New Creation |
| 12. May 20 | Giving Faithfully | 9 | Ministry to the Saints |
| 13. May 27 | Finding Strength | 12-13 | When Weak, then I Am Strong |



Theme

Believers find comfort in knowing that others benefit from and God is honored through their trials.

1:1-7 Comforted – Comfort w Comfort God Gave

1:8-11 Tested – Afflicted Nearly to Death

1:12-14 Accepted – Testimony of Our Conscience



Key Verse – 2 Cor. 1:3c-4

³ God of all comfort,
⁴ who comforts us in all our
troubles, so that we can
comfort those in any trouble
with the comfort we ourselves
receive from God.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)c



Alternate Title

Comfort in Corinth



Outline of 2 Corinthians

You're HERE

I. Special Greetings	1:1-11	
A. Address	1-2	
B. Praise & Encouragement	3-7	
C. Paul's Trial in Asia	8-11	
II. Paul's Ministry	1:12–7:16	
A. Paul's Itinerary	1:12–2:13	
B. Paul's Message	2:14–5:10	
C. Paul's Purpose	5:11–7:16	
III. Collection for Needy Christians	8:1–9:15	Sec. 1 - Love
IV. Case Against False Prophets	10:1–13:10	Sec. 2 - Quacks
V. Final Greetings	13:11-13	



Outline of 2 Corinthians

Section 1 – Jewel of Quickened Love	1-9	Soft Kind Tearful Loving
I. Special Greetings	1:1-11	
II. Paul's Ministry	1:12–7:16	
III. Collection for Needy Christians	8:1–9:15	
Section 2 – Jewel of Quack Exposure	10-13	Hard Stabbing Steal-eye Harsh
IV. Case Against False Prophets	10:1–13:10	
V. Final Greetings	13:11-13	

Sent as ONE Letter, though quite possibly Section 2 was written AFTER additional news came to Paul





1. Lost Letter, 1 Cor. 5:9

2. 1 Corinthians

3. Lost Severe Letter, 2 Cor. 2:4, 7:8-9

4. 2 Corinthians

1 & 2 Ephesus

3 & 4 in Macedonia

Why several think 2 Cor. 10-13 *might*
have been PART of Lost Severe Letter

NOTICE:

Section 1 – Jewel of Quickened Love 1-9 chapters

2 Cor. 1:6, If we are distressed, it is for your COMFORT and salvation; if we are COMFORTED, it is for your COMFORT, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

Section 2 – Jewel of Quack Exposure 10-13 chapters

2 Cor. 10:5, We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.



Timeline A.D. Paul & Corinth

50-51 Paul est. Church in Corinth

51-54 **1st Lost Letter** (1 Cor. 5:9)

54 **1 Corinthians** from House of Chloe
& their 7 questions to him

Spring 55 Emergency visit, confronted, then
required to leave (2 Cor. 1:15)

Summer 55 **2nd Severe Lost Letter**
(2 Cor. 2:4 & 7:8)

Fall 55 Paul meets Titus in Macedonia,
news Corinthians change heart
2 Cor. 1-9 ... then gets bad news

56 **2 Cor. 10-13** writes to defend self

Sec. 1 - Love

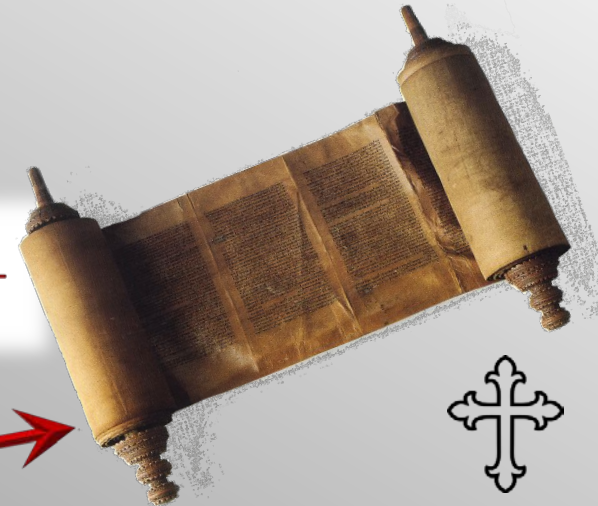
Sec. 2 - Quacks

If like this, Paul winters in Corinth & writes Romans

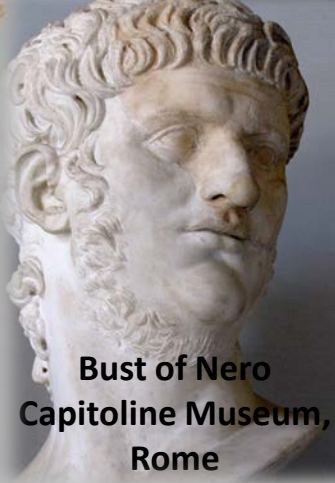


54 **Nero Emperor of Rome**

64 **Great Fire in Rome**
Nero blamed Christians
1st Persecution **BEGINS**



Fire of Rome, 1784, by Hubert Robert



Bust of Nero
Capitoline Museum,
Rome

54 **Nero Emperor of Rome**

64 **Great Fire in Rome**

Nero blamed Christians

1st Persecution **BEGINS**

*Oh, was Paul's persecution a
HINT of coming persecution?*

Without Corinth's troubles ...

Without Paul's Love for them ...



We would NOT have Paul's suffering in chapter 11

1:1-7 Comforted – Comfort w Comfort God Gave

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout **Achaia**:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Achaia ... then

- ✓ Hellas – Mainland Greece
- ✓ Peloponnesus & islands

Today, it is must a small Region in NW of Peloponnesus



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:1-7 Comforted – Comfort w Comfort God Gave

Now to the pivotal passage

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion
and the God of all COMFORT,

⁴ who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.

⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of
Christ, so also our COMFORT abounds through Christ.

Very soon, we are going to focus on verse 4



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1:1-7 Comforted – Comfort w Comfort God Gave

Remember ... LOVE

All people know some measure ... have some

But those in Christ ... who ARE Christians

Have God and His Spirit INSIDE them

Some COMFORT can come from ANYONE

**There is a level of LOVE and COMFORT that comes
through Christians to Christians because**

We were Made in God's Image

God Lives in US



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:1-7 Comforted – Comfort w Comfort God Gave

⁶ If we are distressed,
it is for your COMFORT and salvation;
if we are COMFORTED, it is for your COMFORT,
which produces in you patient endurance
of the same sufferings we suffer.

⁷ And our hope for you is firm,

because we know that just as you share
in our sufferings, so also you share in our COMFORT.

So clearly referring back to 1:4 ...

FACT – we SHARE Sufferings & Comfort



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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1:8-11 Tested – Afflicted Nearly to Death

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia.

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the **SENTENCE of DEATH.**

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

DEATH Sentence!



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:8-11 Tested – Afflicted Nearly to Death

**¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril,
and he will deliver us again.**

**On him we have set our hope that
he will continue to deliver us,**

**¹¹ as YOU HELP US by your prayers.
Then many will give thanks on our behalf
for the gracious favor granted us in**

answer to the prayers of many.

**Sweet answers to prayer
we depend**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:12-14 Accepted – Testimony of Our Conscience

¹² Now this is our boast:

Our conscience testifies that we have
conducted ourselves in the world,
and especially in our relations with you,
with integrity & godly sincerity.

We have done so, relying NOT on worldly
wisdom but on God's grace.

¹³ For we do not write you anything you
cannot read or understand.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:12-14 Accepted – Testimony of Our Conscience

And I hope that,

¹⁴ as you have understood us in part,
you will come to understand fully
that you can boast of us just as
we will boast of you in the

day of the Lord Jesus.

These are 14 verses of endearment ...

8 more, for 22 verses in chapter 1 ... and so forth in

the most exquisite terms thru chapter 8



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Now to our most beautiful & pivotal passage

- ³ Praise be to the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the
God of all COMFORT,
- ⁴ who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.
- ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of
Christ, so also our COMFORT abounds through Christ.

In chapter 11 ... we see what SUFFERING Paul endured

In section 2, perhaps written AFTER chapters 1-9



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Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

But let us examine & find the root of
Let us see clearly, resolutely, certainly
Let's leave today not doubting the meaning of
⁴ who **COMFORTS** us in all our troubles,
so that we can **COMFORT** those in any trouble
with the **COMFORT** we ourselves receive from God.

I suspect ... to the new Christian ... these are easy
Likewise to a young, prosperous, comfortable N.T. Corinthian
But to you and me ... who have a tinge of grey hair
To you and me ... who have known grief & sorrow

FRANKLY ... what do YOU say?



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

To you and me ... who have known PAIN ...

Physical Pain ... as in Limb, Back, Body

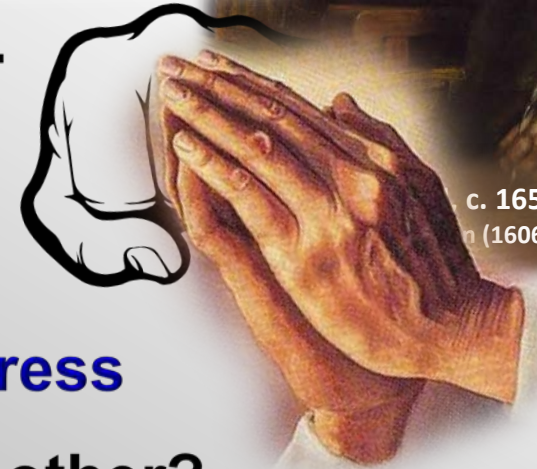
Psychic Pain ... as in Heart, Soul, Spirit

Ponderous Pain ... as in Mind, Thought, Stress

COMFORTS me so that I can COMFORT another?

FRANKLY ... Dear God in Heaven!

Just TAKE AWAY the Trouble!



c. 1657
n (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

**Frankly ... it is NOT that much of a COMFORT
Not much consolation that HIS COMFORT**

is for me to COMFORT others

Call me selfish ... cause surely *I AM SELFISH*

When in trouble – Physical, Psychic, Ponderous –

Whatever ... PAIN of Body, Soul, or Mind ...

I just NEED Comfort—COMFORT



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

**Of all things, Paul ... now in his FOURTH Letter
That we know as 2 Corinthians, in 2 parts
Paul is writing to a very, very, very**

Troubled Church

**I dare say, Corinthian Christians were the MOST Selfish
And, truly ... spiritually ... in mind and heart**

Troubled in MANY Ways



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

**Of all things, Paul ... now in his FOURTH Letter
How many times ... does Paul have to write
Is Paul ... dare I say ...**

Babying Corinth?

**Might be tempted to say such ... cause WE are SELFISH
Though Corinth is troubled in body, mind, soul,**

Paul LOVES Corinthian Christians



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



⁴ who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.

I want to know ... and want YOU to know
What is it? What under heaven is the

COMFORT

Must I take this verse on FAITH? *I have FAITH!*

What of those who do NOT have the “gift of faith”?

Oh my ... when I am troubled, I do WANT comfort

To my loved ones, oh yes ... **1,000x YES I do want to**

COMFORT my Loved Ones in THEIR Troubles



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

What is it? Do I pull it out of my pocket?

Can I squeeze it out ... like a sponge?

Can I bleed it out of my veins ... like donating blood?

Can I “think” it out of mind ... share it like a tract?

How under heaven can I USE this mysterious force called

COMFORT

Come now ... it is the KEY verse of this splendid chapter



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**⁴ who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

**Then ... like a light ...
it dawned on me ... DAH! ... you have to
have been comforted BY GOD to know**

**No God ... No God Comfort
Know God ... Know God Comfort**

**Then ... did I forget ... did I not realize
Was I so BLIND to forget ... not see ... HELLOOOO**

PAUL ... PAUL was Writing This



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

Like a light ... burning my eyes

Shame on me ... Shame on the Corinthians

PAUL knew ... we have 2 Cor. 11 ...

Good God ... Good Comfort

Who has endured MORE for Christ?

I am so BLIND ... so selfish ... Corinthians so BONKERS

PAUL was COMFORTING



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

Corinthians were troubled

**But who among them had been BEATEN
STONED & left for DEAD ...**

Whipped ... and Whipped AGAIN ...

Paul, with unhealed thorn in his FLESH

Paul, still limping from broken toe from Lystra Stoning (Acts 14)

Paul COMFORTED



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**4 who COMFORTS us in all our troubles,
so that we can COMFORT those in any trouble
with the COMFORT we ourselves receive from God.**

**5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of
Christ, so also our COMFORT abounds through Christ.**

What is the “comfort”?

- 1. 1 & 2 Corinthians ... plus 2 lost letters**
- 2. Paul's Presence & Paul's Feeling for Them**
- 3. Paul's undying LOVE for them – FOUR Letters**
- 4. Paul gave what GOD gave to him**

God Comforted Paul Dozens of Times



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



⁴ who **COMFORTS** us in all our troubles,
(so that we can **COMFORT** those in any trouble
with the **COMFORT** we ourselves receive from God.

There's **ONE** word in this verse

One **WORD** that draws us in ...

Paul draws us in ... **so that WE can comfort**

To know **THIS** kind of comfort ... well ...

One has to have suffered **FOR** Christ

One has to have known God ... and best of all

Been Comforted by GOD Near Death



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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