**2 Corinthians 1**

*After his greeting, Paul launches a discussion of suffering, both its reality, and the relief to be found in Christ. He then explains his future plans. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Introduction **(1:1-2)**
2. Authorship and Recipients **(v. 1)**
   1. From Paul and Timothy **(v. 1a).**
   2. To the church at Corinth **(v. 1b).**
3. Greetings **(v. 2)**
   1. Wishes of grace, and the peace which follows **(v. 2a).**
   2. Such comes from God, and the Lord Jesus Christ **(v. 2b).**
4. Paul’s Ministry, Appeals, and Admonitions **(1:3-7:16)**
5. Suffering and Comfort **(1:3-11)**
   1. Blessing to God for Comfort in Suffering **(vv. 3-7).**
      1. Comfort comes from God **(vv. 3-4a).**
      2. Subsequently, those comforted can comfort others **(v. 4b).**
      3. Like the sufferings of Christ, comfort abounds through Him, and works toward salvation **(vv. 5-7).**
   2. Deliverance from Afflictions in Asia **(vv. 8-11).**
      1. Paul informs them of the conflict experienced in Asia **(v. 8).**
      2. Such trouble required their trust only in God. He delivered them **(vv. 9-10).**
      3. The Corinthians helped in this matter with their prayers **(v. 11).**
6. Paul’s Plans and Charge of Fickleness **(1:12-2:2)**
   1. Paul’s claim to sincerity **(vv. 12-14).**
      1. Boasting in the testimony of his conscience – integrity, sincerity, and reliance upon God’s grace **(v. 12).**
      2. Transparency in his writing **(v. 13).**
      3. Paul hopes they understand the reason for mutual boasting **(v. 14).**
   2. Paul’s explanation of his change in plans – defense against the charge of fickleness **(vv. 15-2:2).**
      1. Paul’s original plans to visit Corinth **(vv. 15-16).**
      2. His planning was not done lightly **(vv. 17-22).**
         1. Not done according to the flesh **(v. 17).**
         2. Just as are the promises of God in Jesus, so the words of Paul are faithful and reliable **(vv. 18-20).**
         3. Paul is reliable and trustworthy because God has established him with the Corinthians, anointed him, and sealed him with the guarantee of the Spirit **(vv. 21-22).**
      3. Paul’s reason for the delayed visit **(vv. 23-2:2).**
         1. Delayed spared them **(v. 23).**
         2. This is not a suggestion of domination. He wants them to have joy. They stand by their faith **(v. 24).**
         3. He did not want to come to them in sorrow **(2:1-2).**

**Questions**

1. How is Paul’s affliction and comfort *“for”* the consolation and salvation of the Corinthians **(vv. 5-6)?**
2. What does Paul mean by his use of *“Yes”* and *“No”* in the discussion of his plans **(vv. 17-20)?**
3. What does Paul mean that God *“has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee”* **(vv. 21-22)?**