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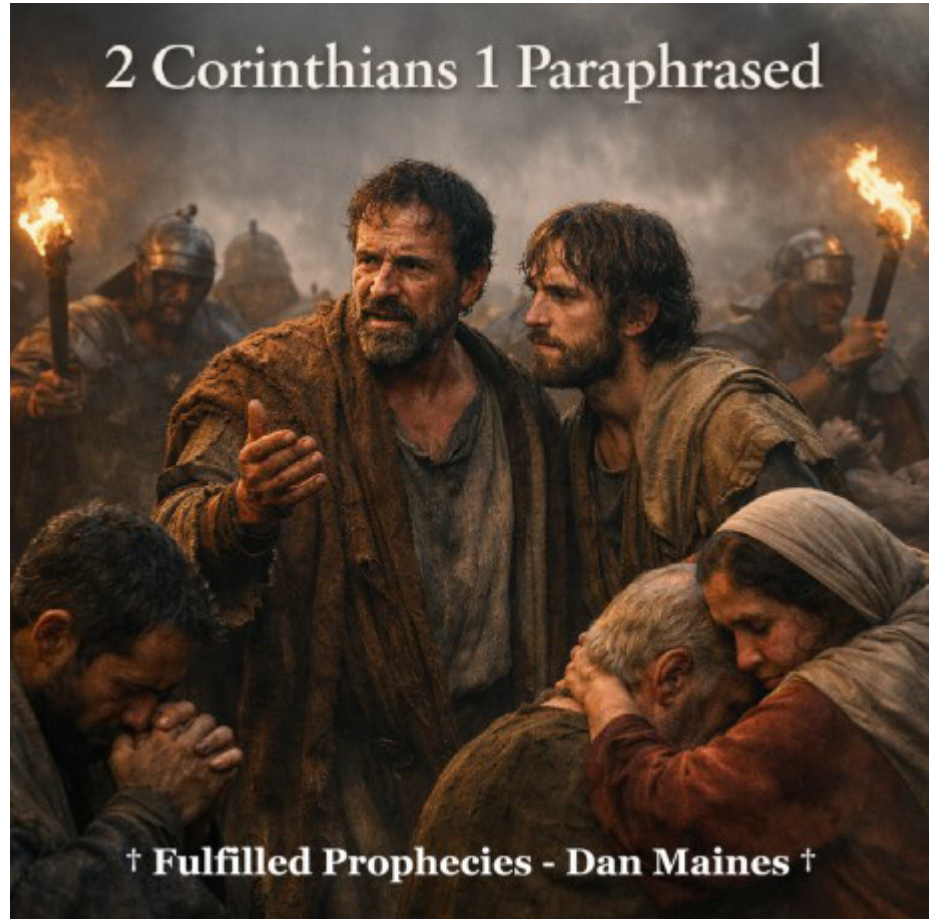
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2 Corinthians 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

2 Corinthians 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul wrote this letter during a time of heavy trials, yet his message begins with comfort and encouragement.

† The chapter shows how God strengthens believers through suffering and uses hardship to help us strengthen others.

† Early Christian writers often pointed to this chapter when teaching about endurance and faith during persecution.

2 Corinthians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother, to God's assembly in Corinth together with all the holy ones throughout Achaia.

† Paul reminds the church that his authority came from God's will, not from human appointment (Galatians 1:1).

† Timothy is mentioned as a fellow worker, showing the cooperative nature of early Christian ministry (Philippians 2:22).

† Irenaeus explained that apostolic authority was preserved through the faithful teaching handed down to the churches.

2 Corinthians 1:2

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

† This greeting shows the unity between the Father and the Son as the source of grace and peace (Romans 1:7).

† Grace represents God's undeserved favor while peace reflects the reconciliation believers now have with God (Romans 5:1).

† Clement of Alexandria often taught that the church lives in grace and peace through Christ's completed work.

2 Corinthians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father who shows mercy and the God who gives every kind of comfort.

† God is described as the source of mercy and comfort, emphasizing His compassionate nature (Psalm 103:13).

† Paul begins by praising God even while describing suffering, showing that hardship does not remove God's goodness.

† Tertullian wrote that the church endured persecution because believers trusted the comfort that comes from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

He comforts us in every hardship so that we can comfort those who are facing hardship with the same comfort we have received from God.

† Suffering equips believers to help others who face similar trials (Romans 12:15).

† God's comfort is not only personal but also meant to be shared within the community of believers.

† Eusebius recorded how early Christians encouraged one another during persecution with the hope found in Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:5

Just as the sufferings connected with Christ overflow to us, the comfort we receive through Christ also overflows.

† Sharing in Christ's suffering was expected for believers in the first century (Philippians 1:29).

† The greater the suffering, the greater the comfort God provides through Christ.

† Justin Martyr testified that Christians endured suffering because they trusted in Christ's sustaining power.

2 Corinthians 1:6

If we suffer, it is for your comfort and salvation, and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort which helps you patiently endure the same sufferings we also experience.

† Paul's trials strengthened the church because his endurance demonstrated faith in action.

† The believers in Corinth were encouraged by Paul's example of perseverance.

† Early church historians wrote that the courage of apostles strengthened the faith of many believers.

2 Corinthians 1:7

Our hope for you is firm because we know that just as you share in the sufferings, you also share in the comfort.

† Paul expresses confidence that the church will endure because God sustains them.

† Participation in Christ includes both suffering and comfort.

† Irenaeus wrote that believers share in Christ's life through faithful endurance.

2 Corinthians 1:8

Brothers and sisters, we want you to understand the trouble we experienced in Asia. We were burdened far beyond our strength so that we even felt we would not survive.

† Paul openly admits the intensity of his suffering, showing that even apostles faced overwhelming trials.

† This honesty reveals that faith does not remove hardship but strengthens believers through it.

† Eusebius described similar hardships endured by early missionaries throughout the Roman world.

2 Corinthians 1:9

In fact we felt as though the sentence of death had already been given, but this happened so that we would not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

† Extreme hardship teaches dependence on God rather than self confidence (Proverbs 3:5).

† The reference to God raising the dead highlights the ultimate power of God over life and death.

† Early Christian writings frequently pointed to God's resurrection power as the foundation of faith.

2 Corinthians 1:10

He rescued us from such deadly danger and will rescue us again, and our hope is in Him that He will continue rescuing us.

† God's past deliverance builds confidence for future deliverance.

† Faith remembers how God has already acted and trusts Him again.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that remembering God's faithfulness strengthens perseverance.

2 Corinthians 1:11

You also join in helping us through prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the favor shown to us through the prayers of many.

† Prayer connects believers and strengthens the whole church.

- † Paul's deliverance involved the prayers of many believers.
- † Tertullian wrote that united prayer was one of the greatest strengths of the early church.

2 Corinthians 1:12

This is our confidence, our conscience testifies that we conducted ourselves in the world and especially toward you with sincerity and godly purity, not with worldly wisdom but with God's grace.

- † Paul emphasizes integrity and sincerity in ministry.
- † His conduct depended on God's grace rather than human cleverness.
- † Early church leaders often stressed that the credibility of the gospel depended on the integrity of its messengers.

2 Corinthians 1:13

We write nothing else to you except what you can read and understand, and I hope you will fully understand it.

- † Paul stresses transparency and clarity in his message.
- † His teaching was meant to be plainly understood by the church.
- † Irenaeus argued that apostolic teaching was open and clear, not hidden or secret.

2 Corinthians 1:14

As you have partially understood us, that you can take pride in us just as we will take pride in you on the day of the Lord Jesus.

- † Paul looked forward to the day when faithful believers would rejoice together before the Lord (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
- † Mutual encouragement between leaders and believers strengthened the church.
- † Early writers often spoke of believers sharing joy together at Christ's appearing in judgment.

2 Corinthians 1:15

Because of this confidence I planned earlier to visit you so that you might receive a double blessing.

† Paul intended to strengthen the church through personal fellowship.

† His travel plans were meant to benefit the believers spiritually.

† Early Christian missionaries frequently traveled to strengthen local assemblies.

2 Corinthians 1:16

I planned to visit you on my way to Macedonia and then return to you from Macedonia and be helped by you on my journey to Judea.

† Paul depended on the support of the churches during his travels.

† This shows the cooperative nature of the early Christian mission.

† Eusebius recorded similar patterns of travel among early Christian leaders.

2 Corinthians 1:17

When I planned this, did I act carelessly, or do I make my plans according to human motives so that I say yes and no at the same time?

† Paul defends his integrity against accusations of inconsistency.

† His decisions were not based on selfish motives.

† Church fathers often defended Paul's sincerity against critics.

2 Corinthians 1:18

But as God is faithful, our message to you is not yes and no.

† Paul's message remained consistent because it reflected God's truth.

† The gospel message does not change depending on circumstances.

† Early Christian teachers emphasized the reliability of apostolic teaching.

2 Corinthians 1:19

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was proclaimed among

you by us, by me, Silvanus, and Timothy, was not yes and no, but in Him it has always been yes.

† Christ is the certainty and fulfillment of God's promises (Hebrews 13:8).

† The message preached by the apostles centered completely on Christ.

† Justin Martyr wrote that all God's promises are fulfilled through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For every promise of God is yes in Him, therefore through Him we say Amen to the glory of God through us.

† Christ is the fulfillment of every promise God made.

† The word Amen expresses agreement and confidence in God's faithfulness.

† Early Christian worship frequently included this declaration of agreement.

2 Corinthians 1:21

Now the One who establishes us together with you in Christ and anointed us is God.

† God Himself secures believers in Christ.

† The term anointed reflects God's calling and empowerment for service.

† Early Christians often described believers as spiritually anointed by God.

2 Corinthians 1:22

He has also sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

† The Spirit confirms God's ownership and promise to believers (Ephesians 1:13).

† The pledge represents assurance of God's covenant faithfulness.

† Early Christian writers connected the Spirit with God's guarantee of salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:23

I call God as witness to my soul that it was to spare you that I did not come again to Corinth.

† Paul's delay in visiting was motivated by care for the church.

† He wanted to avoid unnecessary conflict.

† Early Christian leaders often exercised patience when correcting churches.

2 Corinthians 1:24

Not that we rule over your faith, but we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand firm in your faith.

† Apostolic leadership was meant to support believers rather than dominate them.

† Christian leaders serve alongside believers for their growth and joy.

† Clement of Alexandria emphasized that true leadership strengthens the faith of others.

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles endured suffering so the churches would learn perseverance.

† Eusebius recorded that early Christians often encouraged one another with the same comfort Paul described here.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that believers receive comfort from God so they can strengthen the church.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Believers today still experience hardship, but God continues to provide comfort and strength.

† Our trials often prepare us to help others who are facing similar struggles.

† Just as Paul depended on prayer and fellowship, the church today grows stronger through unity and encouragement.

† God's promises remain certain because they are fulfilled through Christ.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why does God allow believers to suffer?

A Suffering often strengthens faith and allows believers to comfort others, as Paul explained (Romans 5:3-5).

Q How does God comfort believers?

A God comforts believers through His presence, His promises, and the support of other believers (Psalm 34:18).

Q What does it mean that God's promises are yes in Christ?

A It means every promise God made is fulfilled through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Q Why did Paul delay visiting Corinth?

A Paul delayed his visit to spare the church from conflict and to give them time to grow (2 Corinthians 2:1).

Q What role does prayer play in the church?

A Prayer strengthens believers and invites God's help in times of difficulty (James 5:16).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 2 Corinthians 1

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Justin Martyr, First Apology

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