

2 CORINTHIANS: FINDING COMFORT IN DIFFICULT TIMES

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

We can read about Paul planting the Corinthian Church in Acts 18. He knew a married couple, Aquilla and Priscilla, who were tent makers so when persecution broke out in Rome, he headed to Corinth. After connecting with them, his strategy was to go to the synagogue and preached Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. He left when they rejected him and more importantly Christ, but he found lodging with a neighbor of the synagogue. Eventually, the synagogue ruler believed in Jesus. Paul stayed for eighteen months establishing the church in Corinth. He corresponded with Corinthian church addressing issues. There were letters he wrote that we do not have, and he also visited them. Following, he wrote 2 Corinthians. False leaders entered the church and began to cause the church to question Paul's credentials. In his response, he covers many issues that are applicable to following and serving Christ today. Paul dealt with suffering. How can we face suffering and difficult times?

1. As we face difficult times, we should go to God who not only provides _____ for us but uses us as a _____ to provide _____ to others.

2. As we suffer for doing God's work, we can be sure that He will be with us and _____ comfort to _____ us in the _____.

3. God shows up in the darkest times to turn our _____ into _____ so that our hope is in one who can both _____ us and respond to the _____ of His people.