

**Date: 4-18-2016**

## **2 Corinthians 1**

The first chapter of 2 Cor. consists of the following parts, or subjects:

1. The usual salutation and benediction in the introduction of the Epistle, 2 Cor. 1:1-2. This is found in all the epistles of Paul, and was an affectionate salutation and an appropriate expression of his interest in their welfare.
2. He refers to the consolation which he had had in his heavy trials, and praises God for that consolation, and declares that the reason for which he was comforted was, that he might be qualified to administer consolation to others in the same or in similar circumstances, 2 Cor. 1:3-7.
3. He informs them of the heavy trials which he was called to experience when he was in Ephesus, and of his merciful deliverance from those trials, 2 Cor. 1:8-12. He had been exposed to death, and had despaired of life, 2 Cor. 1:8-9; yet he had been delivered 2 Cor. 1:10; he desired them to unite with him in thanksgiving on account of it 2 Cor. 1:11; and in all this he had endeavored to keep a good conscience, and had that testimony that he had endeavored to maintain such a conscience toward all, and especially toward them, 2 Cor. 1:12.
4. He refers to the plans which he had in writing the former letter to them, 2 Cor. 1:13-14. He had written to them only such things as they admitted to be true and proper; and such as he was persuaded they would always admit. They had always received his instructions favorably and kindly; and he had always sought their welfare.
5. In this state of mind, Paul had planned to have paid them a second visit, 2 Cor. 1:15-16. But he had not done it yet, and it appears that his enemies had taken occasion from this to say that he was inconstant and fickle-minded. He, therefore, takes occasion to vindicate himself, and to convince them that he was not faithless to his word and purposes, and to show them the true reason why he had not visited them, 2 Cor. 1:17-24.
6. He states, therefore, that his real intentions had been to visit them 2 Cor. 1:15-16; that his failure to do so had not proceeded from either levity or falsehood 2 Cor. 1:17; as they might have known from the uniform doctrine which he had taught them, in which he had inculcated the necessity of a strict adherence to promises, from the veracity of Jesus Christ his great example 2 Cor. 1:18-20; and from the fact that God had given to him the Holy Spirit, and anointed him 2 Cor. 1:21-22; and he states, therefore, that the true reason why he had not come to them was, that he wished to spare them 2 Cor. 1:23-24; he was willing to remain away from them until they should have time to correct the evils which existed in their church, and prevent the necessity of severe discipline when he should come.

## THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

### Introduction

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother,  
To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup>But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; <sup>7</sup>and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are *sharers* of our comfort.

<sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; <sup>9</sup>indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; <sup>10</sup>who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, <sup>11</sup>you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.

### Paul an apostle —And Timothy our brother

- Paul was accustomed to associate some other person or persons with him in writing his epistles. Thus, in the First Epistle to the Corinthians, Sosthenes was associated with him. For the reasons of this, see the note on 1 Cor. 1:1.
- The name of Timothy is associated with his Epistles to the Philippians and Colossians. From the former Epistle to the Corinthians 1 Cor. 16:10, we learn that Paul had sent Timothy to the church at Corinth, or that he expected that he would visit them.
- Paul had sent him into Macedonia in company with Erastus Acts 19:21-22, intending himself to follow them, and expecting that they would visit Achaia. From the passage before us, it appears that Timothy had returned from this expedition, and was now with Paul.

The reason why Paul joined Timothy with him in writing this Epistle may have been the following:

- Timothy had been recently with them, and they had become acquainted with him, and it was not only natural that he should express his friendly salutations, but his name and influence among them might serve in some degree to confirm what Paul wished to say to them; compare note, 1 Cor. 1:1.
  - Paul may have wished to give as much influence as possible to Timothy. He planned that he should be his fellow-laborer; and as Timothy was much younger than himself, he doubtless expected that he would survive him, and that he would in some sense succeed him in the care of the churches. He was desirous, therefore, of securing for him all the authority which he could, and of letting it be known that he regarded him as abundantly qualified for the great work with which he was entrusted.