

A window with a grid pattern, showing raindrops on the glass and a view of green trees outside. The text "When the Rains Come" is overlaid on the right side of the window.

When the Rains Come

A study of 2 Corinthians





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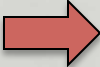



A Study of II Corinthians


...the relationship between
'suffering'
and
'the power of the Spirit'

II Corinthians 1:1-11

 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, and all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with
the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's suffering, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.
 6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which
you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.
7 Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our suffering, you will also share in our
comfort.

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so
utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.
 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves
but on God who raises the dead.

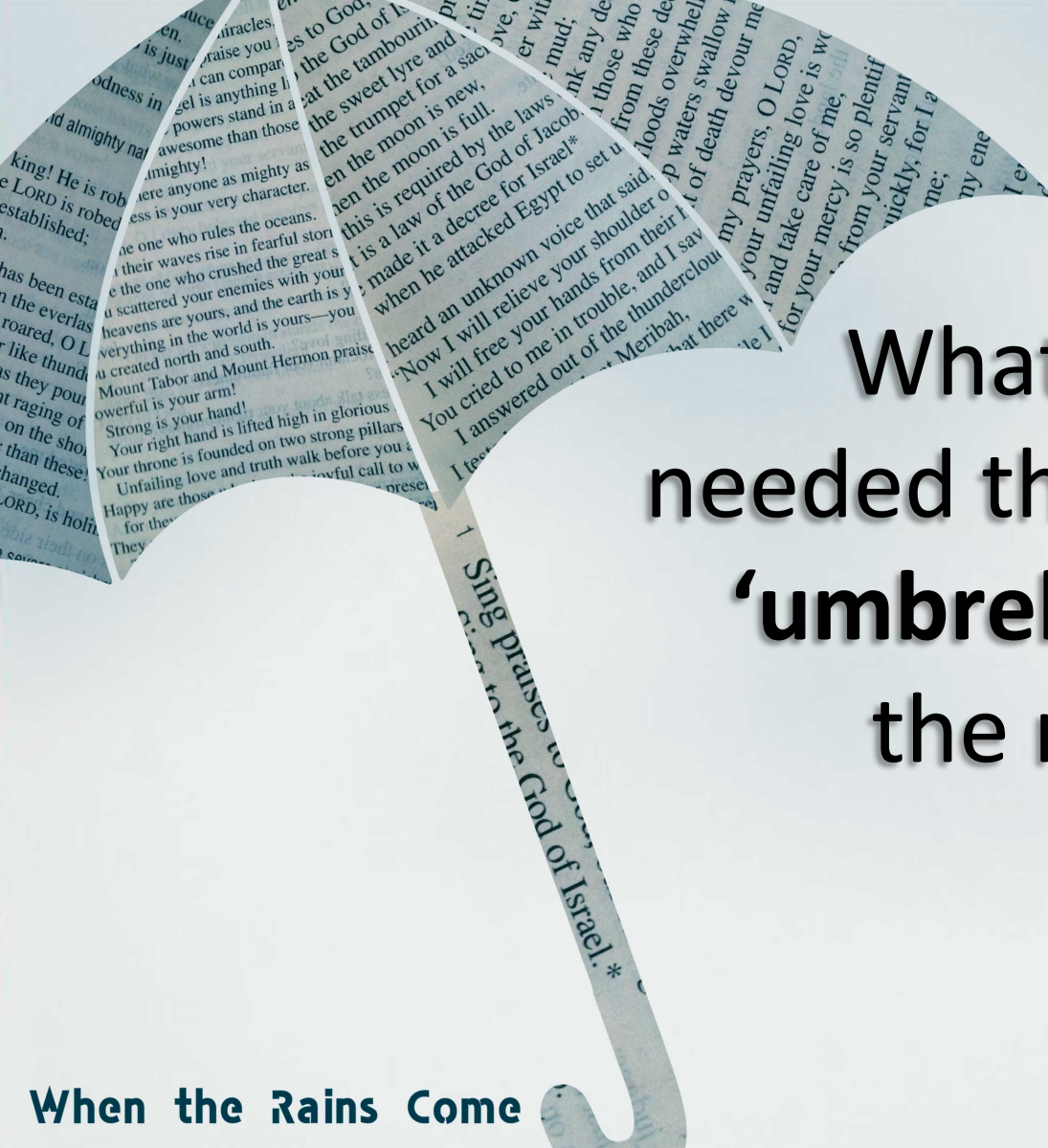
10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will
deliver us again.

11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us
through the prayers of many.

II Corinthians 1:3-11

Character of God

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**
- 4 who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**



What kind of a church
needed this passage as the
'umbrella' statement for
the rest of the letter?

When the Rains Come

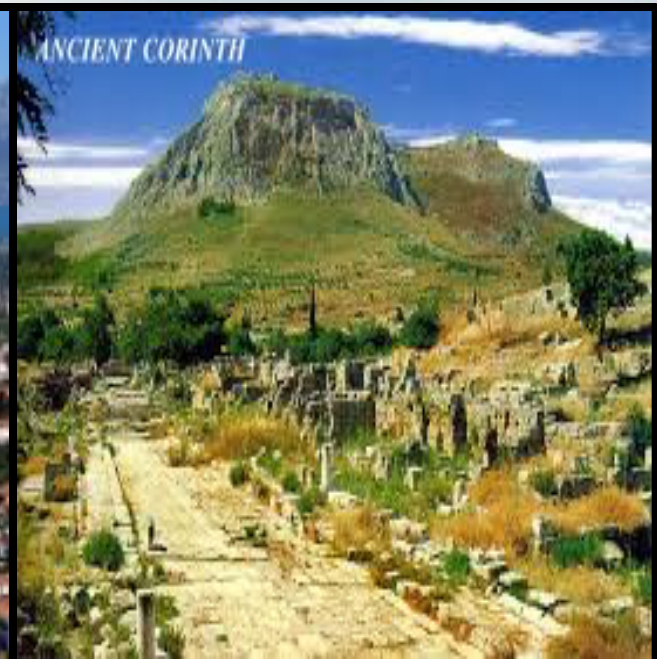
Corinth

- A decidedly Roman city in what was classical Greece
- 90,000 to 700,000 people.
- The 'greek' city was destroyed in 146 BC.
- Rebuilt as a Roman city in 44 BC by order of Julius Caesar shortly before his assassination.



Corinth

- An affluent city....with a few who are the ‘haves’ and lots of the ‘have-nots’.....one of the most unique “port” cities in the history of the world.



Corinth



When the Rains Come

Corinth



Corinth



When the Rains Come

Corinth



Corinth



Corinth



Corinthian Canal: 1893 AD



When the Rains Come

Corinthian Canal: 1893 AD



When the Rains Come

Corinthian Canal: 1893 AD



When the Rains Come

Temple of Aphrodite



When the Rains Come

Isthmian Games



When the Rains Come

Paul and the Corinthians

Paul and the Corinthians

- Near the end of the second missionary journey 51 AD
- 18 month visit (starts in the Jewish synagogue)
- Titius Justus (lived next door to the synagogue)
- Crispus (leader of the synagogue)
- Aquila (a Jew) and Priscilla (probably a gentile)
- Three years in Ephesus (54-56/57 AD)
 - *54 AD wrote his first letter to the Corinthians (lost)*
 - 55 AD wrote our **1st Corinthians** (announces a visit)
 - Later in 55 AD Paul has a 'painful visit' to Corinth
 - *56 AD he wrote the 'tearful letter' (lost)*

Paul and the Corinthians

- **1 Corinthians 16:5-9**

- 5 *I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia,*
- 6 *and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.*
- 7 *For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.*
- 8 *But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,*
- 9 *for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

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Paul and the Corinthians

- 56 AD ...from Macedonia he wrote **2nd Corinthians**
(Titus- things are better but...they are not happy with you)
- 56 or 57 AD Paul made his third and final visit to Corinth
 - Stayed three months
 - Probably wrote the book of **Romans** from Corinth (*look at chapter 16 of Romans*)
 - 57 AD he left Corinth for the last time and headed for Jerusalem with the 'collection', a benevolence offering for those who are suffering from persecution and famine

II Corinthians

...the relationship between

'suffering'

and

'the power of the Spirit' ...

***in the midst of moral, societal and
interpersonal conflict***

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

- 12 For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.
- 13 For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand—
- 14 just as you did partially understand us— that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

- 15 Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace.
- 16 I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.
- 17 Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time?
- 18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been YES and NO.

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

- 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not YES and NO, but in Him it is always YES.
- 20 For all the promises of God find their YES in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.
- 21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,
- 22 and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

- 23 But I call God to witness against me— it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.
- 24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.
- 1 For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you.
- 2 For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained?

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

- 3 And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all.
- 4 For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

So....what is Paul saying?

I am committed to being straight forward and faithful with you because God is straight forward and faithful with us....

I am committed to being straight forward and faithful with you because God is straight forward and faithful with us....

In fact, He is so faithful with us that.....

- He has grounded our relationship in Christ,
- He has anointed our relationship with His grace,
- He has sealed our relationship in His authority,
- and He has guaranteed our relationship with His Spirit.

I am committed to being straight forward and faithful with you because God is straight forward and faithful with us....
In fact, He is so faithful with us that.....

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**And because of He is straight forward and faithful with us
I am committed to enduring the suffering that is necessary
in order to love you and to seek your best in Christ....**

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**And because of He is straight forward and faithful with us
I am committed to enduring the suffering that is necessary
in order to love you and to seek your best in Christ....**

...even when it's not easy!!!

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**And because of He is straight forward and faithful with us
I am committed to enduring the suffering that is necessary
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...even when the rains come!!!

So....what about us?

Are we willing to be
straight forward with ***and faithful*** to
one another in a way that is
filled with love
and a commitment to seeking
Christ's best for each other?

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