

GOD: THE FATHER OF ALL COMPASSIONS

2 Corinthians 1:1-24

¹Paul, 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:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and
God of all comfort, ⁴who 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. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so
also our comfort is abundant through Christ. ⁶But 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; ⁷and
our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our
sufferings, so also you are *sharers* of our comfort.

⁸For 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; ⁹indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so
that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; ¹⁰who
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, ¹¹you 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*. **2 Corinthians 1:1-11 NASB**

- Paul says in **v1** that he is an apostle of Jesus...

⁹For I am the least [worthy] of the apostles, who am not fit *or* deserving to be called
an apostle, because I once wronged *and* pursued *and* molested the church of God
[oppressing it with cruelty and violence]. ¹⁰But by the grace (the unmerited favor
and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not [found to be]
for nothing (fruitless and without effect). In fact, I worked harder than all of them
[the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favor and
blessing) of God which was with me. **1 Corinthians 15:9-10 AMPC**

- Here Paul says “I am what I am by the grace of God...(and not without result!)”
 - Paul is writing to The Church of God in Corinth...the saints in Greece...
 - Corinth was a major city...around 650,000 residents lived there.
 - His greeting to them (**v2**) is in the form of a blessing.

Grace (favor and spiritual blessing) to you and [heart] peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). **2 Corinthians 1:2 AMPC**

- Grace, favor and spiritual blessing, and heart peace from God the Father.
 - In **v3** He blesses God and Jesus.
 - He refers to God as the ‘Father of Compassions’ ...all acts of compassion and mercy...the Father who is the Source of all the compassions we experience. (**Transline New Testament**)

For You, O Lord, are good, and ready to forgive [our trespasses, sending them away, letting them go completely and forever]; and You are abundant in mercy *and* loving-kindness to all those who call upon You. **Psalms 86:5 AMPC**

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy *and* loving-kindness and truth. **Psalms 86:15 AMPC**

⁸Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. ⁹To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; ¹⁰nor have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. **Daniel 9:8-10 NASB**

¹⁸Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰You will give truth to Jacob *and* unchanging love to Abraham, which You swore to our forefathers from the days of old. **Micah 7:18-20 NASB**

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, *and* beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service *and* spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your

mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. **Romans 12:1-2 AMPC**

- In view of all the mercies (compassions) we consecrate all we are and all we have to Him, which pleases Him.
 - It is pleasing to Him and it is a rational intelligent and reasonable choice for us and He accepts it as spiritual worship.
 - He identifies our commitment as reasonable and rational and deceives it as spiritual worship.

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints (the people of God), ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. ¹⁷[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, ¹⁸By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know *and* understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), ¹⁹And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable *and* unlimited *and* surpassing greatness of His power in *and* for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

²⁰Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], ²¹Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age *and* in this world, but also in the age *and* the world which are to come. ²²And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church], ²³Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself]. **Ephesians 1:15-23 AMPC**

- He also tells us that the Lord is the God of all comfort. (see **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**)
 - His comfort is at work, it's operational, in our endurance and as sure as our difficulties real so too, God's comforting heart and hands are truly real and moving to encourage and companion us.
- Paul says that his hope for them and their difficulties is 'anchored' firmly knowing that God's comfort tops the hard issues of their trials.

- Paul’s difficulties left him ‘burdened’ beyond his power or strength...his afflictions were so threatening that he was not sure they would survive...
- They had the ‘sentence of death inside of themselves,’ so that they would know experientially that God really does raise the dead...He delivered Paul and his team and will continue to do so. Rescue!
- Paul tells the Corinthians that their prayers were part of the empowerment that helped them escape their death threatening scenario.
 - Intercession plays a part in comforting people, releasing encouragement to people and rescuing people when needed.
 - When you intercede for someone just think of who you are praying to!

⁵The Lord descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the Lord. ⁶Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” ⁸Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship. **Exodus 34:5-8 NASB**

- God tells us that HE is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and abounding in truth, HE keeps lovingkindness for thousands, HE forgives iniquity, transgression and sin... (see **Exodus 34:5-8**)

¹²For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you. ¹³For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end; ¹⁴just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus. ¹⁵In this confidence I intended at first to come to you, so that you might twice receive a blessing; ¹⁶that is, to pass your way into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea. ¹⁷Therefore, I was not vacillating when I intended to do this, was I? Or what I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there will be yes, yes and no, no *at the same time*? ¹⁸But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no. ¹⁹For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. ²⁰For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. ²¹Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²²who also sealed us

and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. ²³ But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. **2 Corinthians 1:12-24 NASB**

- Paul is responding to some complaints by the Corinthians.
 - ‘False apostles’ had ‘wormed’ into the church and brought trouble. They condemned him because the churches he helped, he didn’t take financial support from. (Tent maker)
 - He didn’t carry letters of recommendation from the original disciples... (neither did they!)
 - Some were pushing legalism and were Judaizers, Paul was not.
 - Some claimed to be of higher spiritual acclaim...visions, dreams, revelation, etc.
 - He was not reliable...he scheduled times to come to Corinth but had to change plans.
- Paul was trying to set the record straight in **v12-20**.
 - He talks about the quality of his team, Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus. **v19**

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory. **Ephesians 1:13-14 NASB**

- Paul reminds them of the Holy Spirit; involvement and anointing on them. **V21-22**
 - Paul did what he was led by God to do...He was much more self-less than selfish...
 - The Corinthians needed to re-read their first letter from Paul.