

Wisdom for Trials

II Corinthians 1: 1-14

12/2/01

Intro

- Thank you to the church for the “baby” shower.
 - We could use men in the choir.
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This is a letter from Paul which follows I Corinthians by only about a year.

There were some in Corinth who didn't appreciate Paul or his admonishing them for the troubles there. In other words, those that were creating trouble were still creating trouble.

These were people who attacked Paul and his ministry and created many hardships for him. In this letter he responds to their challenges and strengthens the foundation of the gospel there.

We also see more of the personal side of the Apostle Paul than in any other letter.

In the beginning section we see the heart of Paul as he greets a church that has wounded him very deeply.

In this section we see principles of wisdom for trials and adversity.

I. How should respond to adversity?

II Cor 1:1-2

A. Paul responds with the statement, “Grace to you.”

- This is a very powerful way to respond to adversity.
- Our tendency is to respond in the flesh with anger.

Illus – David and King Saul: the theme of Saul’s latter years seemed to be striking out at David, yet David refused to strike back.

B. This is a mark of our maturity in the Holy Spirit.

- We can tell how we’re doing in the Lord by how we respond to these types of situations.

Illus- You can see the growth and change in Paul. Compare Galatians 2:7-14 and Col 4:6.

II. Our comfort is to be found in the Lord.

Vs 4

A. Others cause us pain and we have great need for comfort.

- Often, we look for comfort in revenge or in becoming angry.

B. He is the One who can give comfort in afflictions.

- He promises to be with us in the midst of trials.
- We must make the choice where we seek comfort and peace; of God, or comfort in our anger.
- In God's comfort we can comfort others.

- Operating authentically in our faith.

Illus – Sincere – no wax.

Conclusion

Trials will come to all of us. Our turn will come if it has not come already. May we have these principles we in us now even in preparation for that day.

Illus- When we've been through a trial, we're much more likely to have compassion and understanding on others as they go through a trial.

III. We need to stop trusting in ourselves.
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Vs 7-10

- A. Paul says that there was a purpose in being burdened excessively.
 - So that he might not trust in himself.
 - We need to come to the end of ourselves.
- B. It's very common for us to trust in our own cleverness and ability to get us out of trials.

Illus- Jacob the conniver.

Vs 12

- C. We should conduct ourselves in godly sincerity rather than worldly wisdom.