

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to God's church in Corinth and to all of his holy people throughout Greece.
² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

⁸ We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. <u>We were crushed and overwhelmed</u> <u>beyond our ability to endure</u>, and we thought we would never live through it. ^{9a} In fact, <u>we expected to die</u>...

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all <u>comfort</u>.

⁴ He <u>comforts</u> us in all our troubles so that we can <u>comfort</u> others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same <u>comfort</u> God has given us.

⁵ For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his <u>comfort</u> through Christ. ⁶ Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your <u>comfort</u> and salvation! For when we ourselves are <u>comforted</u>, we will certainly <u>comfort</u> you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer.

⁷ We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the <u>comfort</u> God gives us.

<u>God's comfort</u> is not about feeling relaxed and relieved from difficulty. It is the real and personal assurance of God's love and goodness in the middle of suffering. I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace <u>because</u> <u>you trust in him</u>. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

⁴He comforts us <u>in</u> all our troubles

Will you personally believe in Jesus Christ today? ¹² But to <u>all who believed him</u> <u>and accepted him</u>, he gave the right to <u>become children</u> <u>of God</u>. ¹³ They are reborn not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but <u>a birth that</u> <u>comes from God</u>. (Jn 1) ¹⁵ So ... you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. (Romans 8)

Will you start relying on God for comfort in suffering?

⁹ In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, <u>we</u> <u>stopped relying on</u> <u>ourselves and learned to</u> <u>rely only on God</u>, who raises the dead. ...he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. (John 15:2b)

⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles <u>so that we can</u> <u>comfort others</u>. When they are troubled, we <u>will</u> <u>be able to give</u> them the same comfort God has given us. ⁶ Even when we are weighed down with troubles, <u>it is for your</u> <u>comfort and salvation</u>! For when we ourselves are comforted, <u>we will</u> <u>certainly comfort you</u>. Will you receive help from believers in your church (CBC)? ¹¹ And <u>you are helping us</u> by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.



