

Hello. /We will begin the 15th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Today's message is from 2 Corinthians 1. /2 Corinthians, like 1 Corinthians, was written by the Apostle Paul. /The early church fathers acknowledged Paul's authorship of 2 Corinthians.

/The style of writing, the wording, and the structure show us that Paul wrote 2 Corinthians. /It was written at around 57 AD. /If 1 Corinthians was written in the spring, then 2 Corinthians was written in the fall of the same year.

/It was written in Macedonia. /2 Corinthians was written in order to: /first, clear up any misunderstandings the church of Corinth had with Paul. /Second, defend Paul's position as apostle, /and third, expel the Judaists who remained in the church.

/Fourth, it was written to emphasize the need for the collection of offerings for the believers in Jerusalem. /If we look at the book of 2 Corinthians, /Paul defends his work as apostle from chapters 1 to 7.

/In chapters 8 and 9, Paul writes about giving offerings of aid to the collections made for the poor believers in Jerusalem. /In chapters 10 to 13, Paul defends his apostleship.

/Also from chapters 10 to 13, Paul especially warns against and rebukes false teachers, Judaists, and enemies.

/The title of chapter 1 is "Comfort." /First, verses 1-2, the introduction. /Second, verses 3-7, God's comfort. /Third, verses 8-11, God delivers. /Fourth, verses 12-19, sincerity. /Fifth, verses 20-22, a promise guaranteed. /Fifth, verses 23-24, helping the faith.

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

/Paul became apostle because of God, not by the will of man. /Paul was not made apostle by the will of man. /It happened completely by the will of God.

/Again, Paul's apostleship and authority come from God. /The Apostle Paul, with his brother Timothy, writes to God's church in Corinth, and he also writes to all the believers in Achaia.

/Paul wishes grace to them and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. / "Grace" refers to the grace of redemption. / "Peace" is what comes as a result of receiving grace. /

/There is true peace in the believer's heart when he receives grace. /Paul sends this peace and grace as a greeting to the Corinthian church. /Second, verses 3-7, God's comfort.

/Verse 3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” /Through this word, we can know that God is the real source of all comfort.

/In verses 3-7, the word “comfort” appears ten times. /Our God is a God of comfort, and he gives comfort in abundance to everyone.

/Verse 4 especially says that God comforts us in all our affliction. /Paul was greatly afflicted when he was preaching in Corinth. /It was at this time that God comforted Paul and gave him new strength. /Acts 18:9-10.

/Verse 4 tells us about the result of receiving comfort. /It reads, “So that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction.” /Truly, whoever receives God’s comfort will also comfort those who are in affliction.

/Someone who experiences pain is able to comfort others who are in pain. /Then who abundantly receives Christ’s comfort? /Verse 5 says, “For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.”

/Whoever shares abundantly in Christ’s suffering shares abundantly in Christ’s comfort. /In other words, whoever does not suffer for Christ does not receive his comfort. /Therefore, Christ’s suffering and his comfort are directly proportional.

/Then what is Christ’s suffering? /First, it is suffering that is in Christ. /Second, it is suffering because of Christ. /Third, it is suffering as a result of keeping the word. /Whoever suffers much will share abundantly in God’s comfort.

/Verses 6-7. /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. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

/Paul was afflicted for the believers of the church of Corinth and their salvation. /However, in the midst of affliction, Paul experienced the abundant comfort of God. /The comfort that Paul received from our God will be passed on to the members of the Corinthian church, and this comfort will work within them.

/Therefore, pastors will pass their faith and comfort on to believers who are under their guidance. /Verse 7 says, “Our hope for you is unshaken.” /The reason for this is the members of the Corinthian church shared in Christ’s suffering.

/Through Christ, God’s comfort was abundant, and the Corinthian church members’ souls matured. /Whoever shares in Christ’s suffering will share abundantly in God’s comfort, and he will overcome all suffering.

/That is why the Apostle Paul says that Paul's hope for the members of the Corinth church is unshaken. /The believer who shares in Christ's sufferings has hope. /The church that shares in Christ's sufferings has hope.

/When the church is afflicted, the church must not grumble, but it must agree in prayer and move forward. /When the church does this, God's comfort and hope will be abundant in the church.

/Third, verses 8-11, God delivers. /Verse 8 tells us that Paul was greatly afflicted when he preached the gospel in Asia. /Paul wants the members of the church of Corinth to know about it.

/Paul says he was greatly afflicted, to the extent that he despaired of life itself. /Paul in his heart felt like he received a sentence of death. /Why did this happen? /Verse 9 says this. / "But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

/In 2 Timothy 4:17, Paul says, "So I was rescued from the lion's mouth." /When Paul was afflicted with the pain of being in the mouth of a lion, he had no hope to live.

/However, God in his power delivered Paul from affliction. /God allowed this suffering to be on Paul /so that Paul would rely on God and not himself.

/Our God is the Almighty God who raises the dead. /We Christians today may experience severe suffering and lose the hope to live. /We cannot help but be in despair and disappointment.

/But we must look with the eyes of faith. We must not rely on ourselves, but we need to rely on the resurrected Lord, the Almighty God.

/Verse 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.

/In the past, Paul, when he was in affliction, experienced God's deliverance. /He also believes that God will deliver him from his current affliction. /Whatever affliction we face, we must first know about the God we believe.

/We also need to remember the work of the power of God that answered our prayers when we were afflicted in the past. /Furthermore, we need to firmly believe that God will deliver us from our current affliction.

/Additionally, we must believe that God will deliver us in the future, and we need to look to him. /Acts 14:22 says, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." /Thus we must believe that God will deliver us in the future and boldly endure through tribulations. /This is the way of faith.

/Verse 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.

/Paul is asking the Corinthian church members to pray for him. /He wants them to pray for him so that the salvation movement will be fulfilled. /If this happens, then many people will come to God through Paul, and they will give thanks.

/A person by himself cannot carry out God's salvation movement. /The salvation movement that is happening through Paul happens because of the prayers of many and their cooperation. /For example, no matter how brilliant an army general is, if he has no brave soldiers to follow his orders and fight for him, he cannot win the war.

/God's salvation movement cannot be done by one or two people, but it requires the prayer, sincerity, effort, and cooperation of many believers.

/Fourth, sincerity. /Paul preached the gospel in holiness and in sincerity. /However, some people of the church of Corinth criticized Paul for several things.

/(1) They said Paul was unfaithful in his actions. /(2) They said Paul was not sincere in his letters. /(3) They said that Paul's plans for evangelism were always changing. /Some people criticized Paul for being unfaithful in his behavior.

/Verse 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.

/At the time, people who criticized Paul entered the church of Corinth, and they denied Paul's authority as an apostle. /They also accused Paul of craftily preaching the gospel in his own greed.

/Concerning this, Paul defends himself by saying that he preached the gospel with simplicity and godly sincerity. /Paul says he behaved in the grace of God. /In the grace of God, Paul worked in the strength and power that God gave to him.

/He says that this is the testimony of his conscience. /Paul didn't do anything that made him guilty in his conscience. /This is what Paul boasts. /In verses 13-14, they criticize Paul's letters as being insincere.

/Verse 13 says, "For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand." /Paul is not a double-minded person. /The letters he sent and revealed to them did not hide anything.

/The words and letters of a true preacher must always be sincere, and there mustn't be anything deceiving or hidden on the other side. /In verses 15 to 24, they criticize Paul for changing his missionary journey plans.

/Verses 15-17. /Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. 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. 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?

/Paul initially planned to visit Corinth first and then visit Macedonia for his missionary journey. /Then he was to return to Corinth and have the members of the Corinthian church send him on his way to Judea.

/Paul planned to visit the church of Corinth two times. /However, because his plans changed, he went to Macedonia without stopping at Corinth, and he is currently in Macedonia. /Therefore, the people who criticize Paul said that Paul was “vacillating” when he made his plans for the missionary journey.

/They accused Paul of making plans according to the comfort of his flesh, that he was an insincere person. /Concerning this, Paul defends himself by saying that although his plans had changed, he was still acting sincerely.

/Paul didn’t go back and forth for the benefit of his flesh. /He was sincere in his initial plans, and he was sincere in changing his plans to go to Macedonia. /Paul did not make these changes for his flesh, but he did it according to the will of God.

/At first, Paul tried to visit the church of Corinth, but after considering many things, he realized that it was God’s will for him not to stop by Corinth. /That is why Paul not visiting Corinth is acting in God’s holiness and sincerity. He did the right thing.

/We Christians must keep our promises. /Keeping promises is important, but more importantly, we need to follow the will of God. /We may make a promise and believe what we’re doing is right, but as things progress, we must follow the sure will of God.

/Paul’s initial “promise” to visit Corinth cannot be greater than God’s will. /We believers must do this and that if it is in God’s will. /King Herod, to keep his promises, committed the sin of killing the righteous John the Baptist.

/Herod, though he would have gone back on his promise, shouldn’t have killed John the Baptist. /The church of Corinth criticizes Paul according to their thoughts. /This hurts the salvation movement, and it is a sin before God.

/To shut the door on the Apostle Paul is to shut the door on God’s will. /Verse 17 says, “To say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time?” /It is wrong to say “Yes, yes” or “No, no” depending on the circumstance.

/To do so is to be humanistic and opportunistic. /The Apostle Paul certainly wasn’t this kind of person. /He didn’t say “Yes” when things were favorable for him, and he didn’t say “No” when he was at a disadvantage.

/Paul always sincerely acted according to the will of God, and he did not act for the good of his flesh. /Matthew 5:37 says, / “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; /anything more than this comes from evil.

/We must say “Yes” to what is right, /and we must say “No” to what isn’t. /We must say “Yes” to what is right and “No” to what isn’t right even if we are at a loss.

/Verse 18. / As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No.

/Because God is faithful, he never changes. /Therefore, we must believe in his faithfulness and follow his sovereignty and guidance. /Paul always acted sincerely.

/Paul also clearly understood God’s will and acted with a sincere heart. /Paul, knowing something to be the will of God, never rejected it by saying “No.” /We too must walk according to the will of God. /If Paul knew it was God’s will, he always said “Yes” and immediately obeyed.

/Verse 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.

/Silvanus refers to Silas, the one who evangelized with Paul. /Paul, accompanied by Silas and Timothy, went to Corinth and taught the people about Jesus Christ. /Our Jesus Christ always said “Yes” as it was the will of God.

/Jesus never once disobeyed. /He obeyed to the death and completed our salvation. /Paul, under Jesus’ guidance, went to the believers in Corinth and spread the gospel. /How could Paul, who followed Jesus, not obey Jesus?

/Therefore, we can see that Paul changed his missionary journey plans involving the Corinth church in order to obey God’s will. /God does not always guide us believers in a straight line. /He sometimes makes us go around.

/God has a will for us in making us go around. /For example, when King Hezekiah was ill, Isaiah visited the king. /And he says this. /Isaiah 38:1 says, ““Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die, you shall not recover.”

/Hearing this, Hezekiah turns his face to the wall and prays to the LORD in tears. /Then, the LORD speaks again through Isaiah. /The LORD says, “I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.”

/The prophet Isaiah’s initial message was different from his next message, but Isaiah was being sincere. /At first, he prophesied that King Hezekiah would die and not live. /However, he later says that fifteen years will be added to his life.

/Does God go back and forth? /No, he doesn't. /When the time had come for Hezekiah to die, God spoke through Isaiah and said that he would die. /However, God had predetermined and planned for Hezekiah's life to be expanded.

/The prophet Isaiah spoke sincerely both times. /God said to Jonah that he will destroy the city of Nineveh 40 days later. /However, hearing Jonah's sermon, the people of Nineveh repented. /For this reason, the city was not destroyed.

/God is the one who said he would destroy the city of Nineveh, /and his words were sincere. /God was sincere in not destroying them when the people of Nineveh repented. / Both these things were part of God's plan and will.

/Fifth, verses 20-22, a promise guaranteed.

/Verses 20-22. /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. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee

/God's promises find their Yes in Christ. This means they are fulfilled. /What God promised in the Old Testament was fulfilled by Jesus Christ. /We need to accept Christ by saying "Amen," and we must obey his commands.

/Because God's promises are always fulfilled, we who have received his promise must believe and follow. /God's promises are surely fulfilled, and God is glorified as the result.

/ God sincerely fulfilled his promises through Christ. /God applies his work in us so that we are strong in Christ. /God anointed us as a guarantee.

/ "Anointed us" means to bring to life through the truth and through spiritual inspiration. The Holy Spirit dwells within our hearts, /and externally, the Holy Spirit inspires us.

/A spirit that is reborn receives the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to say "Amen" and follow. /When this happens, our souls are satisfied.

/Sixth, verses 23-24, helping the faith.

/Paul explains the reasons why he does not visit the church of Corinth. /First, to summarize, he didn't go because he wanted to spare them.

/Verse 23 says, "But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth." /By not visiting Corinth, Paul gave them a chance to repent. /If he did visit the Corinth church, they who did not repent would have been punished severely.

/If this had happened, the believers in Corinth would have been hurt. /Therefore, Paul changing his missionary journey plans was good for the members of the Corinthian

church. /The second reason why Paul did not visit Corinth is he wanted to work with them for their joy.

/Verse 24. /Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

/Paul didn't care for the church of Corinth and write to them to rule over their faith. /He wanted to give them a chance to repent, and he wanted to work with them for their joy by bringing them to repentance. /Paul was also certain that those who were tempted would eventually stand upright.

/This concludes the 15th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.