

The Book of 2 Corinthians

1

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. J. Sidlow Baxter, in his epic work, *Explore the Book*, describes the nature of this letter:

“While others of Paul's epistles may be more profound, scarcely any could be more precious than this second heart-outpouring to the Corinthians. It was written with a quill dipped in tears, from the apostle's ‘anguish of heart,’ and contains more of human pathos than any other of his letters. Yet there is a lovely rainbow shining through it all, for in his dire distress and deep disappointments he is discovering more than ever before that ‘the Father of mercies’ is the ‘God of all comfort,’ and that the heavenly Master's strength is made perfect in His servant's weakness.”

We know from that Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was written just before the feast of Pentecost (in the springtime) from Ephesus, probably around A.D. 55. Shortly after writing 1 Corinthians, Paul had to flee Ephesus because of rioting instigated by the worshipers of the goddess Artemis (see [Acts 19:23-41](#)). From Ephesus, Paul went into Macedonia ([Acts 20:1](#)) and eventually stayed in Greece (where Corinth was situated) for three months ([Acts 20:2-3](#)). This would have been his second visit to Corinth.

But between leaving Ephesus and arriving in Corinth, Paul wrote his second letter to the Corinthians, promoted by circumstances quite distressing to him (note particularly [2 Corinthians 11:2-4](#), the key verses of the letter).

The book of [2 Corinthians](#) divides into three main sections:

- Section 1 – [chapters 1-7](#)
- Section 2 – [chapters 8-9](#)
- Section 3 – [chapters 10-13](#)

We will start by reading the first section – [chapters 1-7](#) – which focuses on the nature of Paul's heart for and ministry to the Corinthian Christians.

Memory Verse

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!