

Yes, and Amen!

## 2 Corinthians 1:1-24 Part 1

Background: This obviously is the second letter of Paul to the church in Corinth. It was a softer follow up letter to the first one written about a year or two later, after he was told the churches in Corinth had improved somewhat. The second letter is much more personal and less theological, but still filled with wonderful powerful spiritual truths. He knew he had offended people with his first blunt letter and bold theological assertions. The second letter was much gentler and more conciliatory. Still Paul had to continue to defend his authority as an Apostle and explain why he had been so pointed in his first letter. However, Paul did not compromise or reject the truths he taught in the first letter, he simply made the second one gentler and more personal and encouraging. Paul was an Apostle, acquainted with affliction and pain reaches out to a people in pain to comfort and be comforted. Paul attempts to lead them to Jesus and God the Father even when they questioned ridiculed and rejected him. Followers of Christ who should have known better. So, Paul patiently but boldly attempts to disciple them to become powerful unwavering followers of Jesus Christ! The first chapter ends with the famous phrase that has inspired Christians ever since. ***“Gods promises are yes and amen”!*** That is still true for us today.

### I. Introduction to letter v1-11:

A.1-7: Paul is the real deal! He is an Apostle of Jesus sent by the will of God the Father to tell them the truth! That God is a God who comforts and strengthens those who face pain and affliction. However, this loving God expects us to live a pure life, or as much as we are able through the power of the Holy Spirit. Once we give our lives to Christ and we are transformed, we can't live the way we did before. We can't use our freedom to live in sin. The truth Paul told them might not have always been popular or easy to accept, but it was given in love by a man of honor who could be trusted. As much as he was able, he attempted live what he preached.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ ***“Thlipsis”*** in Greek actual physical pressure causing pain. Paul knew God was a God of comfort in our afflictions because he had faced countless afflictions and God had never let him down. God is always faithful. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 1Peter 5:10

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Greek ***“hopomone”*** James 1:2-5, 1 Corinthians 9:24, Philippians 3:7-14

D. \_\_\_\_\_ from the power of the Holy Spirit Latin ***“fortis”*** “strong or brave” ***“fortaleza”*** in Spanish Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ***Puedo hacer todas las cosas en Cristo que me fortalece.***

- E. \_\_\_\_\_ others: we need one another! Hebrews 10:23-25, 1 Thessalonians 4:18, acts 12:5, Acts 19:26-28 Jesus' mother, Acts 1:12-14,
- II. V8-11: Unbearable weight that only God can bear for us! There comes a time when we may face an affliction that is unbearable and will destroy us both physically, mentally, and or spiritually unless God takes that affliction upon himself. Jesus did that on the cross when He took our sin, and punishment. However, even after we are born again there may come afflictions that will be so overwhelming and the pain so deep that only a supernatural intervention by God will save us mentally, physically and of course spiritually. Matthew 27:46 Nelsons 123 hands
- III. V12-14 Boast in God's goodness and grace so we can boast in you! 1 Corinthians 1:24-31, Philippians 3:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:19
- A. Purity held up to the light Greek "*eilikrineia*"
- B. No hidden motives
- IV. V15- 24: God's promises are yes and amen in Jesus!
- A. Amen
- B. Fulfillment of the payment

Answers: affliction, endurance/ triumph, comfort/ bravery, comforting

