

February 19, 2023

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

## **A Ministry of Comfort**

### **II Corinthians 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia: <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. <sup>6</sup>If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which accomplishes in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we experience. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is sure, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you will share in our comfort. <sup>8</sup>We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the hardships we encountered in the province of Asia. We were under a burden far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, we felt we were under the sentence of death, in order that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. In Him we have placed our hope that He will yet again deliver us, <sup>11</sup>as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the favor shown us in answer to their prayers. (BSB)

**Intro:** What is a local church?

What is a saint?

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. Paul is **dictating** this message to the Corinthian church using Timothy as a scribe. V. 1
- B. Verse 2 is a standard **greeting** that Paul uses in his letters.
- C. **Compassion** is seeing someone in need and feeling deeply about it. V. 3
- D. **Comfort** is a proper response through compassion to those in need. V. 3
- E. We **reciprocate** to others what we have first received from God. V. 4-7
- F. Paul faced severe suffering for the **benefit** of the local churches that he served. V. 8-10
- G. Paul was greatly helped by the **prayers** of those who constantly held him up to God through these **prayers**. V. 11

II. How can we apply these truths in our life?

- A. We shouldn't be held back by **pride** in asking others to help us when we sincerely need it.
- B. We should also look for ways to **help** others in their distress.
- C. If we have never **received** grace from God, we are incapable of **giving** this kind of grace to others.
- D. We must be **specific** and **direct** in our prayers.