

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, Comfort When All Seems Hopeless

Preached Sunday, July 27, 2025. Discussion Questions for Sunday, August 3, 2025.

Starting the Conversation (5-10 minutes)

1. What is comfort? Have someone in the group share a time they received comfort from a friend?
Ask, "How did that make you feel?"
2. What is a time that you offered comfort to someone who was hurting
3. What do you think is the importance of being a comfort-giver? What does that look like when you offer comfort to someone who is hurting?
4. How should comfort-giving be a part of a Christian's life? How should we as believers rely on the example God the Holy Spirit to bring comfort to a hurting person?

Observation (30 -35 minutes)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8. Why did Paul begin this passage with "I don't want to you to be uninformed?" What were they "now" to be informed about? Why was this important to this section of 2 Corinthians?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:9. When you hear the term, affliction, what do you think of? How tough of an affliction would it have to have been for Paul to have shared his need?
3. Possibly, what were the afflictions Paul could have faced? Is there another chapter 2 Corinthians that dealt with severe difficulties. What made this affliction different?
4. If Paul had relied on something/someone other than God, how could the results have been different? What does that say about where the people of God should focus their reliance?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:10-11. How did Paul make it a church-wide effort that he might be delivered? What did Paul mean by "a terrible death." How was this horrible situation used to drive the church to pray?
6. Note the plea Paul made for the church to pray in verse 11. What was the result of the church praying for Paul? How did that point others to God's faithfulness to His servant?
7. Did there seem to be a suggestion that the more people that prayed was the reason God answered so miraculously? Was there more power in more people praying?

Theological Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Don't skip this question! This is important!

How do these verses in 1 John help us to understand the Gospel? How do these verses help us to see our need for Jesus?

Application (10-15 minutes)

1. How can you look to God for hope? How can we best do that on an everyday basis?
2. Does God always do right? How does your answer to that question reveal your trust in Him?
3. How can you take part in giving others real hope?
4. What is one thing you can do this week to help bring comfort and hope to those who have been broken?