

**Please take time to pray and ask God to open your heart to what he longs to share with you as you read and study His Word. Read this chapter at least twice before beginning to answer the questions.**

1. Who is the author of this letter? Vs.1
2. Who are the original intended recipients of this letter? Vs.1
3. The words “grace” and “peace”

Grace 5485 chais graciousness, God's divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude. A favor done without expectation or return; absolute freeness of the loving kindness of God to men, finding its only motive in the bounty and free heartedness of the Giver' unearned and unmerited favor.

Peace 1515 eirene (to join) quietness, rest, set at one again. Denotes a state of untroubled, undisturbed, well being

**Using these definitions what is Paul expectation and desire for them?**

4. How does Paul describe God in vs.3? In good times and in trial?
5. In verses 3-7 there is a key repeated word. Use your highlighter to mark the word “comfort”; then let's go back and see what we can learn.
6. Who is our comforter? Vs.3

This is the type of word that is valuable to look up in the Greek. It is the word Paraklesis-which comes from the two Greek words, Para-beside and Kaleo-to call. It means a calling near, to summon (especially for help)

7. What three things do you learn about God from vs. 3?
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8. When does he extend his comfort to us? Vs.4
9. What is the future purpose of this comfort? Vs. 4
10. Why would believers, followers of Christ, suffer?

#### **John 15:18-19**

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

11. When you have walked through a trial do you look for ways to share the comfort that Christ has comforted you with? Are you a channel for God's blessings and comfort to others or are you a bucket simply holding them?
12. Are you more likely to be found extending comfort or trying to avoid suffering?
13. Do you recall the meaning of Barnabas' name? Acts 4:36 What are you known for?
14. What are your thoughts as you hear about someone else's trial?

15. We sometimes hear people say that God has purpose in sufferings.  
What purpose could be served by our being comforted in our sufferings?
16. Does comfort in suffering mean our trial will immediately be over or go away?
17. If they do not immediately go away what might we gain?

**Rom. 5:3, 4** More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

**James 1: 3, 4** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

#### **18. What does Paul mean when he says we share in Christ's suffering?**

**1 Peter 2:21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

19. What was Christ's example for dealing with suffering?
20. What is gained from suffering for Christ's sake?
21. In verses 8-11 to what extent do you see Paul's suffering?
22. Have you experienced these kinds of feelings? Vs. 8
23. What good does Paul say came of this suffering, what trust does he have for the future? Vs.10
24. What part is Paul inviting the believers to participate in his ministry?
25. Are you joining with the ministries of others in this way? Vs.11

**Acts 2:42-43** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

The Prayer Partner is one of the most important people in helping establish the Kingdom of God here on earth, as they are the backbone of any ministry. Prayer partners pull down the strongholds so those sent to the mission field can accomplish what they are called to accomplish. **God has a way to get things done on earth, but we have to be willing to do it His way and it all starts with prayer!**

26. What do you find Paul rejoicing over in verses 12-14?
27. How did he describe his manner of ministry as he had shared the gospel with those of Corinth? Vs.13

- 28. Is there anyone who has had a profound effect on your spiritual life that you long to boast about in heaven one day?**
- 29. Paul had previously planned to visit them on his way to Macedonia, what changed his plans? Vss.15-24**
- 30. How does James 4:13-15 speak to our plans?**
- 31. How do you respond when plans get changed?**
- 32. Are you sensitive to the voice of God when he desires to change your plans?**
- 33. Can doing something good get in the way of doing the perfect will of God?**
- 34. How should we view our daily plans?**
- 35. Verse 20, states that the “promises of God find their Yes in him”. Who is this referring to?**
- 36. Paul is a messenger of Christ’s, called to carry the gospel, how would you characterize his ministry?**
- 37. Underline the two gifts given to believers. Vs. 22 & Eph.1:13-14**
- 38. What reason did Paul say he had refrained from coming to them as he had planned? Vs. 23**

Paul had answered many of the questions these believers had asked him with his letter of 1 Corinthians. Sadly they had not followed his instructions and he had written to them again a much sterner letter. This letter is lost so we cannot read it but it is mentioned in 2 Cor. 7:8, 9. He regretted the pain it had caused but rejoiced over the repentance that it brought.

- 39. What is Paul’s desire the next time he is with them? Vs. 24**
- 40. Correction is never easy. Do you enjoy correcting your children?**
- 41. Will focusing on the long range effect of correction in the lives and character of our children help us to be faithful and consistent?**
- 42. What is the possible outcome of not correcting them?**
- 43. According to 1 Peter 5:2-3, how are we to care for those God has given us to shepherd? Underline our most valuable and influential tool as a shepherd of the flock of God spoken of in this verse?**

“shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”