

I II Corinthians

Primary Teaching theme: *Church Order/Discipline - (General Church Doctrine)*

The Corinthian epistles serve as corrective disciplines addressing specific issues that caused disorder and division in the Church. The Apostle Paul established structure and order in the Church of Corinth that represented a model already developed by the Church leadership in Jerusalem, identified as the “Way of Christ.” As expressed in the Corinthian letter, the *Way of Christ* was taught in every Church. The expression refers to a universal discipline applied to all churches and entails strict expectations for adherence. (I Corinthians 4:17)

Secondary Teaching theme: *Uniformity of Faith*

The letter to the Corinthians emphasized the importance of uniformity of faith. The belief and practice of the Christian faith was homogenous within the local Church and in all places where the Church came together. The confession of faith should not create divisions among Jews and Gentiles but instead bring them together as believers to speak the same thing, making the same confession relative to their salvation regardless of ethnicity.

Jews did not possess more salvation because they were chosen, and Gentiles were not given less salvation because they were grafted into the spiritual tree. The status of wealth or the lack thereof did not grant some more access to God, while others had less.

Making the same faith confession reduces everyone to the same level of grace required for their salvation. Everyone is saved equally by the same grace. The equality of salvation unites all people groups together without division, with the same mind and evaluation (judgment) of one another.

Secondary Teaching theme: *Shared Suffering/Support*

The second letter addressed the shared experiences of suffering for the Christian faith. The Apostle spoke openly about the troubles he and others experienced during their ministry tour through parts of Asia. He acknowledged the near-death circumstances he was exposed to because he contended for the faith.

His experiences served as testimony to the Corinthians, urging them to hold fast to their faith in all circumstances. He rejoiced in knowing he served God with a clear conscience and that his life was a public testimony to the world. The Apostle understood that his call to ministry was a result of God’s mercy, and because of that, he could not faint or give up. He renounced everything to serve God honestly and present the truth without fear or shame.

Suffering was an expected outcome of the early Church practitioners. Just as believers share the same faith, suffering will also be a shared experience. Sharing the same beliefs will result in similar experiences for all those who practice that faith.



The Apostle revealed the value of suffering by exploring what God has deposited inside the suffering believer. Inside every believer, God has deposited a treasure. The value of the treasure is the same for every believer, and every believer must guard the treasure as a high-value deposit.

The volume of suffering cannot destroy or diminish the God deposit inside the believer. The believer will not escape experiencing trouble on every side, but the trouble will distress the treasure. The outside world will perplex every believer, but the treasure will not be in despair.

Believers will continue to be persecuted, but the treasure will not be forsaken. The believer will be beaten and cast down, but the treasure cannot and will not be destroyed.

(II Corinthians 4:8-10)

When all believers understand that they are participants, not spectators, of suffering, they will find inspiration in helping others in their moment of need. That premise was demonstrated in the offering collected among several Churches in Asia and the surrounding area, contributing to the need for the Church in Macedonia.

The scripture passages that teach the principles of sowing, reaping, and cheerful giving were born out of the exercise of giving to the Church in Macedonia, which was suffering a tremendous need. (II Corinthians 9)

