

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, November 19, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 41 | 2 Corinthians: Life is Hard & God is Good

2 Corinthians (Acts 18:1-17)

In life's **HARDEST** circumstances

life is hard 1:8-9; 4:7-11; 6:4-10; 7:5; 11:23-29; 12:7-10

our fault, not God's 1 John 3:9; Psalm 18:30; Romans 5:12

God gives **COMFORT**

↔ **so we can comfort others** 1:3-4; 7:5-7; 2:5-8; 13:11

his grace really is enough 12:9-10; 10:17; 8:7; 9:6-11

and there *is* **HOPE**.

↑ **by faith** 5:1-7 Hebrews 11:1

your hope is Christ 5:16-6:2; 3:16-18



Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!
Text **"CONVERSATION"** to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.
You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **"Pray for..."** followed by your request.



PAUL'S 2ND LETTER TO THE

Corinthians

Each time Paul wraps up his ministry to a church or individual in Acts whom he later writes a letter to, we'll take a week to give an overview of what he wrote to them. **This week we're in 2 Corinthians.**

Where in Acts? Acts 18:1-17

Why did Paul write them?
About a year after this first letter, Paul writes again to the church in Corinth. Paul had already written three letters to the Corinthians (two are now lost). In 1 Corinthians (the second of these letters), he used strong words to correct and teach. Most of the church had responded in the right spirit; there were, however, those who were denying Paul's authority and questioning his motives.

Key Verses
1:3-4 – God comforts us so we comfort others
3:17-18 – Where the Spirit is there's freedom
5:17 – Those in Christ are new creations
5:21 – Jesus took our sin so we could get his life
12:9-10 – God's grace is sufficient

Basic Outline
1: Paul explains his actions. (1:1-2:11)
2: Paul defends his ministry. (2:12-7:16)
3: Paul defends the \$\$\$ collection. (8:1-9:15)
4: Paul defends his authority. (10:1-13:13)

Key Topics
• Grace • Suffering & Comfort • Perseverance
• Transformation • Generosity • Ministry

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. Have you created any art in the past five years?
2. If you were a doctor which specialty would you choose?

Priming the Pump...

- As you think back on this week's message, what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. .

1. This weekend we saw that God gives us comfort and hope, even in the hardest circumstances of life. Take look at the following verses from **2 Corinthians**. What hope and encouragement do we get as followers of Jesus from each passage? Write down your answers.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. **2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 (ESV)**

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, **2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-15 (ESV)**

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR VALUES

These are things you'll see to be true about us...



1. It's All About Jesus!

You'll hear us say this often.—Why? Because *it's all about Jesus!* Apart from his death, burial, and resurrection we're wasting our time.



2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book—and we are to believe the Bible in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



3. All People Matter

No matter who you are, where you're from, what you've done, or what's been done to you—you *matter to Jesus and you matter to us!*



4. We All Need Friends

You were designed to belong, not to go through life alone. Jesus created each of us desiring friendship and to live in community.



5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred, God's Word is sacred, *but our opinions, methods, and traditions are not*—we'll let go of any of them if more people can experience life change through the Gospel!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁶ So we have **stopped evaluating others** from a **human point of view**. At one **time** we **thought** of **Christ** **merely** from a **human point of view**. How **differently** we **know** him now! ¹⁷ This **means** that **anyone** who **belongs** to **Christ** has **become** a new **person**. The old **life** is **gone**; a new **life** has **begun**! ¹⁸ And all of this is a **gift** from God, who **brought** us **back** to himself through **Christ**. And God has **given** us this **task** of **reconciling people** to him. ¹⁹ For God was in **Christ**, **reconciling** the world to himself, no **longer**

counting **people's** sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are **Christ's** ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for **Christ** when we plead, "Come **back** to God!" ²¹ For God **made** **Christ**, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be **made** right with God through **Christ**.

E G K C P E O P L E G F Y
T O K L T F B E G U N U E
I N B I A T M R I H T L O
M E A N S D A S V U H G M
E U C O K I D O E M O G R
C P K L I F E N N A U B K
H O N G I F T L O N G E R
R I O O B E C O M E H L H
I N W A B R O U G H T O M
S T O P P E D A N Y O N E
T R E C O N C I L I N G R
W O R L D T O T H E R S E
A K E V A L U A T I N G L
W W K H S Y V I E W N O Y

life groups Study Guide (continued)

¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. **2 CORINTHIANS 2:16-18 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. . . . ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, 20 (ESV)**

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10 (ESV)**

- Looking back at what you wrote above, can you think of any examples of how a perspective from one of these verses has helped you or could have helped you in the past? If so, explain.
- What are some of the hard circumstances in your life right now? Which passage above speaks most to you in this season?
- Which one would be most helpful in reminding you God is at work in your life and wants to use you to make a difference in the world around you in this season of your life?

Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



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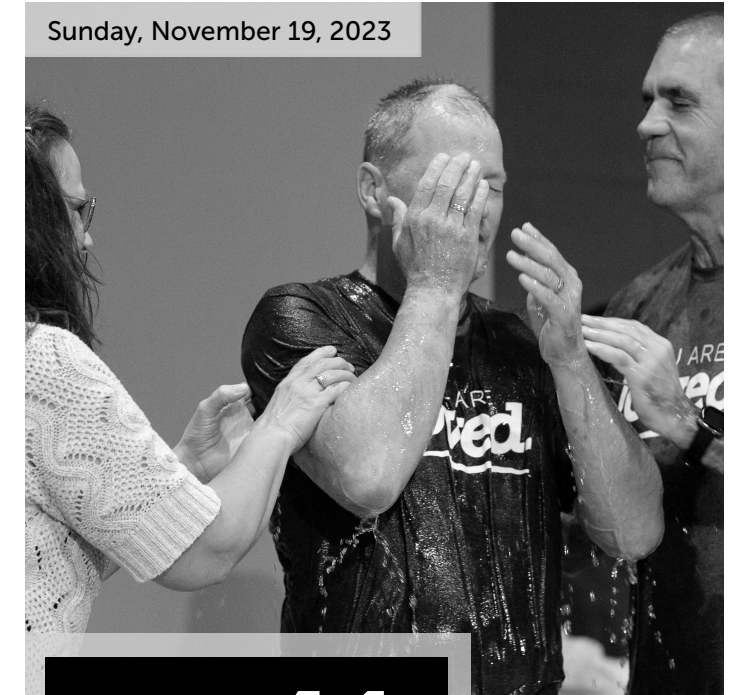
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