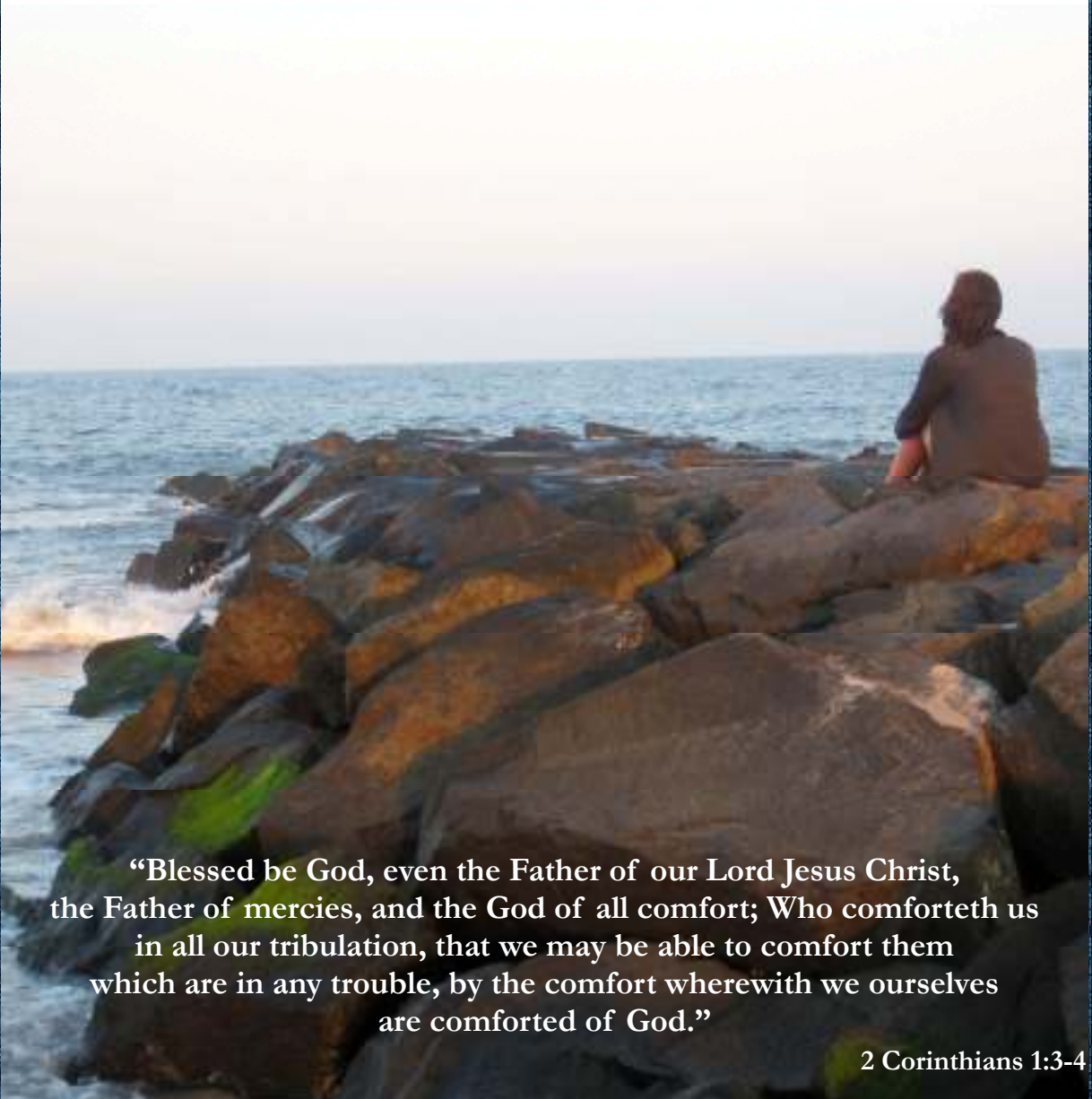


 Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia 2011-2012

Women's Ministry



“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Women's Bible Study 2011-2012

All the Bible Study Groups will be studying 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5 this year. Next year we will be studying 2 Corinthians Chapters 6-13. We are so excited to be studying a book of the Bible again this year. The apostle Paul wrote this Epistle. It is very personal and the most autobiographical of all his letters.

Overview to 2 Corinthians from "The New Scofield Reference Bible".

The second epistle to the Corinthians was written within a year of the first letter to the same church. Paul's spiritual burden was great; for, in addition to the problems with which the apostle had to deal in his first letter, a wave of distrust in relation to Paul himself had now swept through the church. Some said he was not sincere; others even questioned whether he had apostolic authority. Consequently, Paul here defends his authority by placing before the church the overwhelming evidence of his sincerity in serving God. Thus this Epistle is very personal and autobiographical. Here, then, is an unusual accumulation of words expressing suffering of mind, heart, and body; "affliction," "anguish," "beating," "distresses," "fastings," "fightings," "labors," "perils," "persecutions," "sorrow," "stripes," "sufferings," "tears," "tumults," "weak," and "weakness." At the same time the words "comfort" and "comforted" are found here more frequently than in other Pauline writings; also such words as "joy," "rejoicing," and "triumph" are prominent.

By permission of Oxford University Press, Inc. OUP Material: The New Scofield Reference Bible edited by C. I. Scofield (1967), p. 1252, Introduction to II Corinthians.

Excerpt from "Be Encouraged" a Commentary on 2 Corinthians by Warren W.

Wiersbe. We are amazed by this commentary. You will be so blessed by it!

One of the key words in this letter is comfort or encouragement. The Greek word means 'called to one's side to help.' The verb is used eighteen times in this letter, and the noun eleven times. In spite of all the trials he experienced, Paul was able (by the grace of God) to write a letter saturated with encouragement.

What was Paul's secret of victory when he was experiencing pressures and trials? His secret was God. When you find yourself discouraged and ready to quit, get your attention off of yourself and focus it on God. Out of his own difficult experience, Paul tells us how we can find encouragement in God.

Paul began his letter with a doxology. He certainly could not sing about his circumstances, but he could sing about the God who is in control of all circumstances. Paul had learned that praise is an important factor in achieving victory over discouragement and depression. 'Praise changes things' just as much as 'Prayer changes things.'

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Excerpt from the Commentary, “Studies in First and Second Corinthians The Royal Route To Heaven and Blessings Out of Buffetings” by Alan Redpath.

Notice the language of verses 3-5 of the opening chapter: “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”

These verses open to each of us a ministry that is unique. Not everyone is called upon to preach the Word of God in public; not everyone is called upon to bear testimony to Christ before a crowd. But if any of us know the Lord Jesus Christ in reality then God opens for each of His children a ministry which is unique--- a ministry of comfort, which simply means the ability to communicate Holy Spirit life to others. Such a ministry is, as we shall see, intensely costly. It is those who experience the suffering of Christ who in turn experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit; these are they who live richly and therefore are used mightily.

Personally, I would rather have the spiritual gift of bringing life to one broken heart than the ability to preach a thousand sermons.

Quote from The Royal Route to Heaven reprinted by permission (Calvary Chapel Publishing, Santa Ana, CA © 2007)

Excerpt taken from “The NIV Encouragement Bible” on 2 Corinthians, “Reflecting His Glory”.

“Imagine yourself in a fine jewelry store. You have asked to see a large, multifaceted, priceless diamond. “Of course,” says the jeweler and steps into his back room. He emerges a moment later holding a plain, misshapen clay pot. “The diamond,” he tells you, “is inside.” “What is this?” you protest. “I can’t view the gem inside an earthenware jar?” “Well yes, you really can,” the jeweler assures you. “The jar is broken. Do you see this large crack on the side? And there’s a bit of a hole over here near the top. You can hold it to the light - just so - and catch a glimpse of this magnificent gem. There! Did you see it flash? Exquisite! Never was there such a stone as this!” In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks about such a treasure - and such an unusual container. He writes: “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (4:6). In other words, as we grow in Christ and fix our gaze upon him, we begin to reflect his likeness and glory. People catch glimpses of the incredible treasure within us. “We...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory” (3:18). When we speak, when we touch other lives, when we respond to adversity with patience, faith and a sweet spirit, people around us see a flash of Christ’s beauty. Yet here is the surprise. Paul tells us that “we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us” (4:7). In other words, God chooses to display the flawless beauty of his Son in the most common of containers: our own weak, failing, stumbling, imperfect human flesh. Why did God choose such a method? We can guess. A clay jar does not attract attention to itself. The eye looks right past the container (with all its imperfections) to the radiant beauty within. The jar may have cracks, chips, even gaping holes, yet the glorious treasure within floods those imperfections with heavenly light. In this life our “clay jar” often sees tough service. We get jostled, dropped and chipped. We suffer disappointments, setbacks, sorrows, pain and weakness. Our bodies may not attract much favorable attention. But unspeakable value lies within! We carry the message of reconciliation with God and eternal salvation through Christ. As the Master’s life flows through us, day by day, hour by hour, we reflect the very character qualities of Jesus Christ. Not a bad job description for earthen jars!

Taken from Encouragement Bible by (Jan Dravecky, Dave Dravecky and Joni Eareckson Tada). Copyright © 02/16/01 by Zondervan. Used by permission of Endurance, www.endurance.org

Key Verses from 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort where with we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

2 Corinthians 1:20

“Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish.”

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.”

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;”

2 Corinthians 4:1

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

2 Corinthians 4:7

Key Verses from 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.”

2 Corinthians 5:1-2

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

2 Corinthians 5:7

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

Homework Schedule for 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5

Bible Study Requirements: There are three things you will need to do your Bible Study this year: your Bible, you will need to purchase a commentary called, "Be Encouraged" by Warren Wiersbe, and a journal to write down what the Lord shows you as you study.

The **required commentary**, "Be Encouraged," by Warren W. Wiersbe; also available in Spanish - "Animados en Cristo," can be purchased for \$7 in the Bookstore. This is a discounted price. They retail for \$12.99, but the SFTH Bookstore will sell them to us for \$7. We will be studying 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5 from September 2011-May 2012. We will continue our study in 2 Corinthians next year, doing Chapters 6-13. You will be able to use the same commentary next year.

Homework Schedule for 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5

Here are the assigned portions of Scripture and the "Be Encouraged" Commentary pages to read each month. You do not need to do the study questions at the end of each chapter in the Commentary.

Oct.	Introduction to 2 Cor. Chapters 1-5	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 9-15
Nov.	2 Cor. Chapter 1	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 17-27 & 31-35
Dec.	2 Cor. Chapter 2	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 35-41
Jan.	2 Cor. Chapter 3	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 45-54
Feb.	2 Cor. Chapter 4:1-7	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 57-62
March	2 Cor. Chapter 4:8-18	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 62-65
April	2 Cor. Chapter 5:1-11	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 65-68 & 71-74
May	2 Cor. Chapter 5:12-21	"Be Encouraged" Commentary pgs. 74-81

Some suggestions as you study each month:

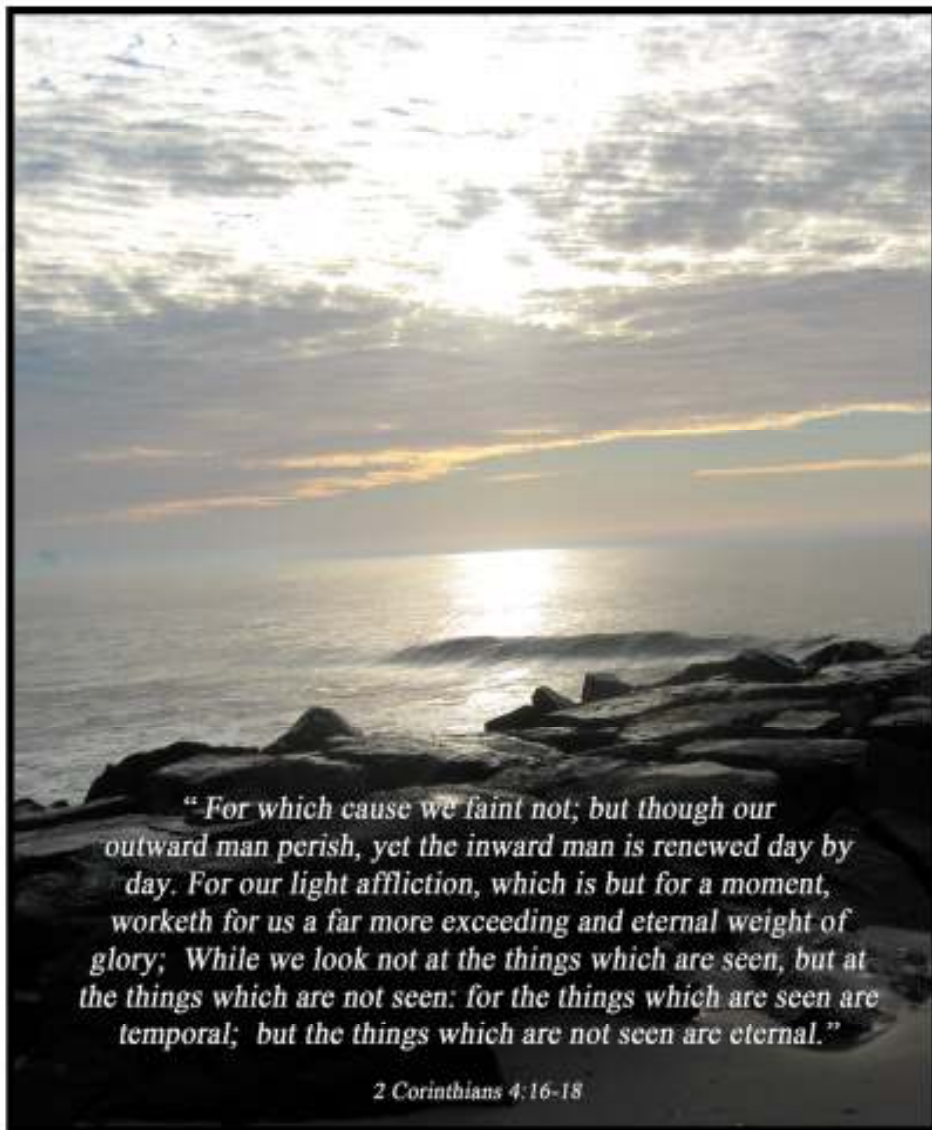
- Pray and ask the Lord to speak to you through His Word.
- Read through the assigned portion of 2 Corinthians in your Bible and the "Be Encouraged" pages.
- Highlight or underline the verses in your Bible that spoke to your heart.
- Highlight or underline the parts in the "Be Encouraged" Commentary that spoke to your heart.
- Write in your journal what the Lord has shown you as you study each month.

Excellent optional commentaries on 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5 for further study:

You are not required to purchase these commentaries, they are optional. They would make great resources for extra study on 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5.

"Studies in First and Second Corinthians The Royal Route To Heaven and Blessings Out of Buffetings" by Alan Redpath. This commentary is on 1st and 2nd Corinthians. However we will only be studying the section on 2 Corinthians called, "Blessings Out of Buffetings." The retail price is \$16.99, but the SFTH Bookstore will sell it to us for \$7. We will be studying 2 Corinthians Chapters 1-5 from September 2011-May 2012. We will continue our study in 2 Corinthians next year, doing Chapters 6-13. You will be able to use the same commentary next year.

"The John Phillips Commentary Series Exploring 2 Corinthians" by John Phillips. The cost is \$16.00, which is a discounted price and is for sale in the SFTH Bookstore. You will be able to use the same commentary next year.



“ For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18