

Isaiah 48:16,17 - *Come ye near unto Me (The Messiah), hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord God, and His Spirit, hath sent me.*

*Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer (Jesus), the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldst go.*

*Now, look at Isaiah 48:3,10. - I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them; I did them suddenly; and they came to pass.*

*Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.*

So the trials are for our purification.

4. Describe a time in your life when your strength was gone and you thought you wouldn't live through it: you put yourself into God's hands, and He brought you out. \_\_\_\_\_

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## FIRST STUDY

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### TWOFOLD PURPOSE EPISTLE

Being hindered from being able to come to Corinth while passing through Macedonia (II Corinthians 1:5), is Paul's occasion for writing this second letter to the Corinthians.

This twofold purpose Epistle deal with (1) The instance of the incestuous person and (2) a contribution being made up for the poor believers at Jerusalem.

Paul includes other things in this letter, such as his preaching the gospel, with it's labors and successes, in numerous places; and the sufferings of himself and his fellow laborers. He also warns the believers not to unite with unbelievers; and again has to defend himself and his apostleship as he has had to do throughout this Epistle.

INTRODUCTION, AUTHORSHIP, AND SALUTATION (II Corinthians 1:1-11)

Paul introduces his letter with the statement, . . . *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God* (II Corinthians 1:1a).

1. Paul includes in his introduction a young man.

What is his name? (II Corinthians 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_

This Epistle was not only for the Corinthian Church, but for all the Churches around that region (II Corinthians 1:1).

Paul gives thanks to God for His mercies and

His all comfort (II Corinthians 1:3).

2. Because of the sufferings and tribulations Paul and his fellow laborers experienced on this trip , he explains how God uses such terrible things in in the life of the believer.

(a) Give the verses that refer to this.

(b) Give Paul's explanation.

3. Paul gives some details of the hard times he and those with him had suffered in Asia in II Corinthians 1:8,9. What were they? \_\_\_\_\_

But Paul and the others put themselves into God's hands who they knew, alone, could save them and even raise the dead. And He did (II Corinthians 1:9).

In ministry, it is very easy to get to this place of despair, but we must do as Paul and the others, we must know without any doubt that God delivers. We are to put ourselves into God's hands.

Our extremity is God's opportunity. <sup>1</sup>

We must, and can, trust Him.

Paul had experienced Gods deliverance in the past, that God had delivered him from danger and death; that He presently was delivering them; and adds future deliverances, when he says, . . . (God) *in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us.* (II Corinthians 1:10; II Peter 2:9).

Jesus, *the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last* (Revelation 1:11a), also knows and declares . . . *the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done* (Isaiah 46:10). With this in mind, we can also know that our Lord is aware of all our present, past, and future and His hand is upon every phase of the obedient believer's life. How marvelous this is. We can trust Him.

1. The Matthew Henry Commentary, p. 1828.