

A Letter of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

2 Corinthians 2:14 – 6:13

2 Corinthians 7:2-4

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Paul had a lot to say in his letter to the assembly of believers in Corinth:

Praise God, the compassionate Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all encouragement, who comforts me in all my troubles so I may comfort others in theirs. The troubles I've faced have led me to stop relying on myself and to rely only on God, and your prayers for me have aided me in this accomplishment.

I and my coworkers encounter troubles at every turn, but we are not crushed; we are perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted by unbelievers, but never abandoned by God; knocked down, but never destroyed. We live under constant threat of death because we serve Jesus, so the life of Jesus will be evident to everyone.

When we leave these temporary, earthly bodies, our suffering will be over, and God will provide us with eternal, heavenly bodies. In the meantime, God has given us the Holy Spirit so our lives might be guided by the love of Christ, through which the world has been reconciled to God.

When we say, "Turn back to God!" our appeal is on behalf of Christ, a sinless man made by God to be a sin offering on our behalf, so in union with him we might be fully reconciled to God.

We face many sorrows, but always have joy; we are poor, but give spiritual riches to others; we own nothing, but have everything.

I have confidence in you, and take pride in you. You have encouraged me and filled me with joy.