

LESSON 1

HITTING US WHERE WE HURT

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1–11



1 What does “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link” mean?

2 What is the weakest link in . . .

a team? _____

a business? _____

an individual? _____



Read the introductory material to 2 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians 1:1–11, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:3–5 ☐ 1:5 ☐ 1:6, 7 ☐ 1:8–10

3 Why did Paul write 2 Corinthians?

4 What problems were the Corinthians having?

5 How did Paul address these problems?

6 How did Paul's sufferings benefit his ministry to the Corinthians (1:3-5)?

7 Why were the Corinthians vulnerable to false teachers?



Second Corinthians is a personal letter from Paul. False teachers had called into question the integrity of his ministry and the very truthfulness of the gospel he was preaching. Paul knew that these false teachers could devastate the new church. Out of his love for Christ and for the believers in Corinth, Paul defended his ministry and the gospel. The Corinthians were weak, their city was immoral, they were being persecuted, and they were young in the faith. They needed to be strengthened. Their example shows us the importance of keeping our focus on Christ and his Word. When we lose this focus, we become susceptible to those who would willingly lead us away from Christ. We must remain diligent in our pursuit of Christ.

8 What sufferings were the Corinthians going through that prompted Paul to write about the mercy and comfort of God?

9 How could false teachers exploit the Corinthians' weaknesses?

10 What would make it difficult for Paul to defend himself against the false teachers?



11 Who are some of the false teachers today?

12 Why are people drawn to false teachers?

13 What weaknesses do false teachers exploit?

14 What can Christians do to strengthen themselves against the lure of false teaching?

15 What weaknesses in your life might make you susceptible to false teaching?



16 What can you do to strengthen those weak areas?

A What caused Paul to praise God (1:3)? For what can you praise God today?

B What is one reason God comforts us (1:3, 4)? Find other examples in the Bible that point to God's mercy and love as the basis for our expression of mercy and love to others.

C What trouble had Paul endured in Asia (1:8)? What happened as a result of these troubles? What might God be teaching you through the troubles that you are enduring?

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