

**Thought for the Day – Week Commencing Sunday 15th November 2020**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 New International Version - UK**

**<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.**

God gives us comfort so that we can comfort others. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians was confident that God would give comfort in all our troubles. What troubles do you need God to comfort you in? Give thanks for the comfort God brings no matter what we suffer.

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**2 Corinthians 1:5-7 New International Version - UK**

**<sup>5</sup> For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup> If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup> And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.**

As a body – we each share in each others joys and sufferings. We are comforted to know God heals and restores, protects and shields, supports and encourages, those who trust in Him. Give thanks for this comfort and be glad that those who share our sufferings also share in our comfort.

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**2 Corinthians 1:8-9 New International Version - UK**

**We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.**

Paul had indeed experienced great suffering, beyond the ability to endure but he points to the Lord and proclaims this suffering was allowed so that he and his companions would rely on God who has power over all things and is able to sustain us even when our own resources are exhausted. Give thanks that God teaches us to rely on His endless love, strength and power, pray for those who are stretched to the limits of endurance today.

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**2 Corinthians 1:10-11 New International Version - UK**

**<sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, <sup>11</sup> as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.**

Paul is not only confident in the ability of God to deliver him from the deadly peril he faces, but also in the prayers of his readers. Our prayers are really important in supporting missionaries, ministers and those on the frontline who face great peril in order to serve the Lord and share the Gospel. Pray for all who face peril as they serve the Lord, uphold key workers serving the general public in the face of COVID-19.

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**2 Corinthians 1:12 New International Version - UK**

**<sup>12</sup> Now this is our boast: our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity<sup>[b]</sup> and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.**

In all our dealings with others we should act with integrity so that we maintain our good witness and uphold the standards of the Kingdom. This, as Paul testifies, needs reliance on God's grace rather than our own wisdom. Pray that we will rely on God's grace to act with integrity in all matters and uphold all those who serve in positions of leadership in the church that they will know this Grace also.

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**2 Corinthians 1:13-14 New International Version - UK**

**<sup>13</sup> For we do not write to you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, <sup>14</sup> as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

Paul aims to make his message clear so that his readers would understand and know completely his actions were motivated by his desire to serve the Lord and do His will. Are your actions transparent and your motives to obey the Lord? Give thanks for those whose actions are motivated by God's will and for whom we can boast in the day of the Lord Jesus!

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**2 Corinthians 1:15-16 New International Version - UK**

**<sup>15</sup> Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. <sup>16</sup> I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to let you send me on my way to Judea.**

So many of our plans have been disrupted by the current crises. So many planned visits have had to be cancelled, how disappointing it is not to be able to meet with those we love and long to share fellowship.