

When the Rains Come

A study of 2 Corinthians





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...the relationship between 'suffering' and 'the power of the Spirit'...

in the midst of moral, societal and interpersonal conflict

Great Commission

- 18 And Jesus came and said to them,

 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
 - And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

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What is true about God

What is true about us

What are we instructed to obey

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What is true about God Based on understanding who He is... What is true about us

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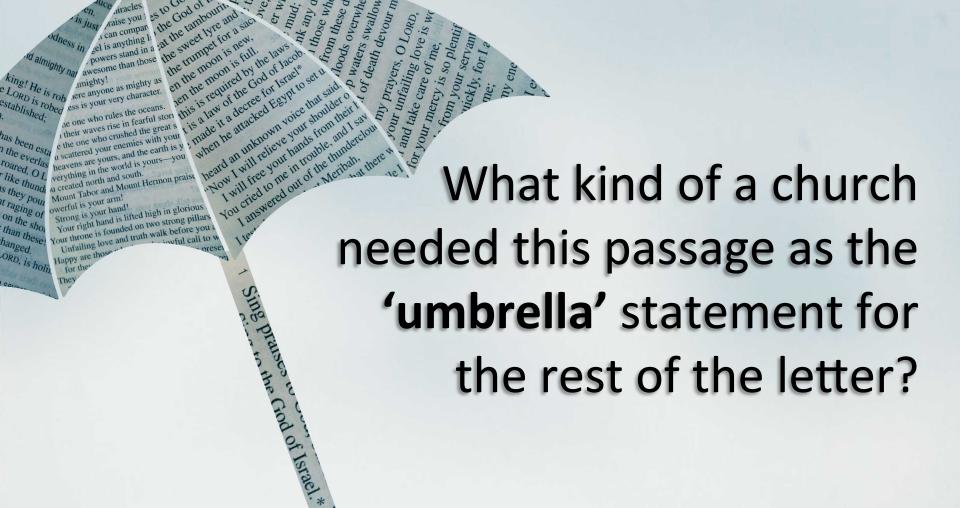
As devoted followers of Jesus... we look at the Scriptures for what it tells us about...

What is true about God Based on understanding who He is... What is true about us based on understanding who we are... What are we instructed to obey this is how life really works!!!

II Corinthians 1:3-11

Character of God

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
- 4 who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.



Are we willing to be straight forward with and faithful to one another in a way that is filled with love and a commitment to seeking Christ's best for each other?

II Corinthians 1:12-2:4

- 5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure— not to put it too severely to all of you.
- 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough,
- 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.
- 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

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parakaleo: encourage

- 9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.
- 10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive.
 Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ,
- 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his design.

- 9 For this is why I wrote, Give me a chance to fail you that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.
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Satan's (Hebrew 'the adversary') "design":

- Deceive
- Divide
- Destroy

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

So....therefore....so what?

Whose sin has caused you pain?

Whose sin has caused you pain?

Whose sin has ruined everything for everybody?

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Whose sin has ruined everything for everybody?

Who has endured the discipline of God and learned?

Whose sin has caused you pain?

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Who has endured the discipline of God and learned?

Who would be crushed under the weight of their sin without your willingness to forgive, comfort and love?

Whose sin has caused you pain?
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Who do you need to love so that others are encouraged by the presence of Christ-likeness?

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Who has endured the discipline of God and learned?

Who would be crushed under the weight of their sin without your willingness to forgive, comfort and love?

Who do you need to love so that others are encouraged by the presence of Christ-likeness?

Has Satan's 'design' outwitted us?

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