

2 Corinthians choral reading

CHARACTERS: Paul (36), Timothy (37), ALL, VOG (Voice of God 2)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: about 3 minutes/page

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Corinthians 1-13

Greetings and comfort (Chapters 1-2)

PAUL: Greeting from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will

TIMOTHY: And from me, Timothy to God's church at Corinth

ALL: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

ALL: the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

TIMOTHY: God comforts us in all our affliction,

ALL: so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction,

TIMOTHY: through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

PAUL: For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us,

ALL: so through Christ our comfort also overflows.

TIMOTHY: Our hope for you is firm, because we know that as you share in the sufferings,

ALL: so you will share in the comfort.

PAUL: For we don't want you to be unaware, brothers, of our affliction that took place in Asia.

TIMOTHY: we were completely overwhelmed—beyond our strength—so that we even despaired of life.

PAUL: Indeed, we personally had a death sentence within ourselves,

ALL: so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.

TIMOTHY: He has delivered us from such a terrible death,

ALL: and He will deliver us.

PAUL: We have put our hope in Him that He will deliver us again

ALL: It is God who strengthens us,

TIMOTHY: He has also sealed us and given us the Spirit as a down payment in our hearts.

ALL: We are workers with you for your joy,

TIMOTHY: because you stand by faith.

PAUL: If you forgive anyone, I do too.

TIMOTHY: We have done this so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan.

ALL: For we are not ignorant of his schemes.

Chapters 3-4

PAUL: We have this kind of confidence toward God through Christ.

ALL: It is not that we are competent in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves,

PAUL: but our competence is from God.

TIMOTHY: He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant,

ALL: not of the letter, but of the Spirit.

TIMOTHY: For the letter kills, but the Spirit produces life.

PAUL: Having such a hope, we use great boldness.

ALL: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

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TIMOTHY: Therefore, we do not give up.

ALL: We have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.

PAUL: We are pressured in every way but not crushed;

ALL: we are perplexed but not in despair;

TIMOTHY: we are persecuted but not abandoned;

ALL: we are struck down but not destroyed.

PAUL: We always carry the death of Jesus in our body,

ALL: so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

TIMOTHY: We also believe, and therefore speak.

ALL: We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus

TIMOTHY: Therefore we do not give up.

PAUL: Even though our outer person is being destroyed,

ALL: our inner person is being renewed day by day.

TIMOTHY: For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

ALL: So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

PAUL: For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Chapters 5-6

PAUL: We know that if our temporary, earthly dwelling is destroyed,

ALL: we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands.

TIMOTHY: The One who prepared us for this very purpose is God,

ALL: who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.

PAUL: We know that while we are at home in the body

ALL: we are away from the Lord.

TIMOTHY: For we walk by faith, not by sight,

ALL: Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to God.

PAUL: We must all appear before the tribunal of Christ,

ALL: so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or worthless.

TIMOTHY: Therefore, because we know the fear of the Lord,

ALL: we seek to persuade people.

PAUL: Christ's love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion:

ALL: If One died for all, then all died.

TIMOTHY: And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves,

ALL: but for the One who died for them and was raised.

PAUL: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

ALL: old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.

TIMOTHY: God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

ALL: Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us.

PAUL: We plead on Christ's behalf,

ALL: Be reconciled to God.

TIMOTHY: He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us,

ALL: so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

PAUL: Don't receive God's grace in vain.

ALL: Look, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.

Chapter 6-9

PAUL: Do not be mismatched with unbelievers.

ALL: For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness?

TIMOTHY: Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?

ALL: What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

PAUL: We are the sanctuary of the living God, as God said:

VOG: I will dwell among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to me.

TIMOTHY: Godly grief produces a repentance not to be regretted and leading to salvation,

ALL: but worldly grief produces death.

TIMOTHY: Now as you excel in everything—

ALL: faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—

TIMOTHY: excel also in this grace of giving.

ALL: For you know our Lord Jesus Christ: Though He was rich,

TIMOTHY: for your sake He became poor,

PAUL: Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,

ALL: and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

TIMOTHY: Each person should give as he has decided in his heart—

ALL: not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

PAUL: And God is able to make every grace overflow to you,

ALL: so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.

TIMOTHY: Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food

ALL: will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

PAUL: You will be enriched in every way for all generosity,

ALL: which produces thanksgiving to God.

TIMOTHY: This ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints,

ALL: but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.

Chapters 10-11

PAUL: Though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way,

ALL: since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly.

TIMOTHY: They are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds.

ALL: We take every thought captive to obey Christ.

PAUL: I, Paul, have promised you in marriage to one husband—

ALL: to present a pure virgin to Christ.

TIMOTHY: But we fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning,

ALL: your minds may be seduced from a complete and pure devotion to Christ.

PAUL: For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

ALL: So it is no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

TIMOTHY: Their destiny will be according to their works.

Chapters 12-13

PAUL: The Lord has said

VOG: My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

PAUL: Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses,

ALL: so that Christ's power may reside in me.

TIMOTHY: We take pleasure in weaknesses, insults,

ALL: catastrophes, persecutions,

PAUL: and in pressures, because of Christ.

ALL: For when I am weak, then I am strong.

PAUL: Christ was crucified in weakness,

ALL: but He lives by God's power.

TIMOTHY: We also are weak in Him,

ALL: yet we will live with Him by God's power.

PAUL: Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith.

ALL: Examine yourselves.

TIMOTHY: We also pray that you become fully mature.

ALL: Finally, brothers, rejoice.

PAUL: Become mature, be encouraged,

ALL: be of the same mind, be at peace,

PAUL: and the God of love and peace will be with you.

TIMOTHY: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,

ALL: and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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