

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

2 Corinthians 1:1-12

Sunday, August 3, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. How can you bless God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you want to?

We can bless them by thanking them for all of the blessings and gifts they give, by seeking to do their will, by loving them, by listening to what they say in the Bible, by obeying them, by telling others about them and what they say in the Bible, by spending time with them in prayer and worship. Yes.

2. In 2 Corinthians 1:1-12, what does Paul say God does?

God consoles us in all our afflictions. God rescues us. God raises us from the dead.

3. How did Paul describe his affliction?

He did not write exactly what it was. He wrote that his affliction was for the consolation and salvation of others. He wrote that he was “utterly, unbearably crushed,” and he “despaired of life itself.” He felt as though he had “received the sentence of death.” He was in “so deadly a peril.”

4. What might you say to someone who was wondering why they were suffering after they had come to believe in Jesus Christ instead of having life easier?

You might remind them that Jesus promised that those who followed him would bear their cross and suffer persecution. Before he met Christ, Paul persecuted Christians and after he met Christ he suffered persecution. Then, you might add that God had promised Paul that He would console and comfort abundantly anyone who followed Jesus, and He would help them learn from their experience of affliction so they could comfort others. God will help believers patiently endure their suffering until He rescues them.

5. When, how often, and why should we rely on God and not on ourselves?

When? At all times, and certainly when we are afflicted or facing insurmountable problems or death.

How often? Sometimes moment-by-moment and at least day-by-day.

Why? Because we are weak and He is strong. Because God created us and He is the Father of mercies. Because God wants to console, comfort, and rescue us. Because He has the power to raise us from the dead. Because Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

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