

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Four reasons why this is a great letter for church planters:

1. Working at difficult relationships
2. Working from weakness
3. Working in the city
4. Working from personal gospel formation

The context – a difficult relationship:

- Paul, Silas and Timothy plant church in Corinth
- 18 months fruitful Word ministry, Paul leaves
- Apollos arrives, waters the church (Acts 18; 1 Cor. 3:6)
- Paul
 - makes painful second visit (2 Cor. 2:1; 13:2)
 - writes lost letter (1 Cor. 5:9)
 - receives letter from the Corinthians
 - writes 1 Corinthians
- Titus visits Corinth and brings back news (2 Cor. 7:6-9)
- Paul writes another letter (2 Cor.)

The structure [Scott Hafemann]:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Chap 1-7 | Strengthening the repentant |
| Chap 8-9 | The collection as an appropriate fruit of repentance |
| Chap 10-13 | Offering the unrepentant a final opportunity to repent |

How do we minister out of weakness?

We comfort others with the comfort we have received.

1. God of All comfort
2. In All our affliction
3. Those who are in All affliction