



21 JUNE 2026 PM
2 Corinthians 1:1-20
TOKENS

= something given as a guarantee

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

INTRODUCTION

- once we are saved, Jesus promised He would send His Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us in witnessing

John 15:26-27

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

- likewise, there are certain traits observable in the lives of those who follow Jesus:

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.



John 15:7-12

abiding in Christ
answered prayers
producing fruit
keeping His commandments

- so we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, and we have certain character traits by which others can see this change, but what about personal tokens of salvation?

sometimes we don't feel saved...

it is for this reason God gives to every believer certain **TOKENS** by which to gauge our salvation

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. COMFORT IN SUFFERING **verses 3-7**

verses 3-4 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Paul used a particular phrase here...**Blessed be God**

in **Ephesians 1:3** it refers to a **past** event

...who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places

in **1 Peter 1:3** it refers to a **future** event

...begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

in our text, it refers to a **present** event

...who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble...

He is the **God Of All Comfort**...the word Paul chose to use is *paraklesis*

comfort = to call along side

this is the same word used for the Holy Spirit in **John 14:16**

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.

in 2 Corinthians, Paul used the word *comfort* **29x**

18x as a verb

11x as a noun

in **verse 5**, Paul held up **the sufferings of Christ** so we could measure our own

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Hebrews 12:4

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Paul does not diminish our own suffering, but he does manage to put it into perspective

in **verse 4**, he gives us the token of our salvation:

...that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

in **verses 6-7**, Paul puts us all in the same boat, as it were: our suffering is *shared* but it is also *effectual*

1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. **3**

2. CONFIDENCE IN STRESS **verses 8-10**

For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: but we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

in **verses 8-9**, Paul used strong words to describe this stress he was facing in his own ministry

troubles (*thlipsis*) = pressure

pressed out of measure (*bareo*) = heavy

taken together, these words refer to the idea of pressing out grain under the weight of a *tribulum*...a heavy log with spikes

certainly, Paul understood stress in the Christian life

2 Corinthians 11:22-28

to get through these difficult times, Paul focused on **The God Which Raiseth The Dead**

in **Acts 9** Paul met the resurrected Savior

in **Acts 13:30** he preached the resurrection in the synagogue of Antioch

in **Acts 17:31** he preached the resurrection to those on Mars Hill in Athens

Paul lived every day and every circumstance in light of the resurrection

verse 10...notice the verb tenses

...who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

NOTE: **verse 11** ...ye...helping together

this is the only time this phrase is found in NT

in Greek, it is a three-word compound

with, under, and work

= laborers under a burden **4** working together to accomplish a task

3. CHARACTER IN SITUATIONS vs 12-20

Acts 24:16

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

in **1 Corinthians 16:2-8** Paul had promised to visit the church in person...as the Lord permitted (**vs 7**)

the church at Corinth had a problem with rumors and gossip, and this change in his plans added fuel to the fire

in **verse 17**, Paul explained he had every intention to come, but his plans had to change by necessity

this idea of yea, yea and nay, nay plays out through the end of the chapter

Matthew 5:37

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

all this to say, in order to maintain character in our life, and to have a clear conscience, live in light of:

the Lord's **RETURN** **verse 14**

the Lord's **WILL** **verses 15-18**

the Lord's **HONOR** **verses 19-20**

** in preaching Christ, Paul did not apply the life of the Savior differently to different groups of people (i.e. rich, poor, educated, etc.)*

verse 20 Jesus Christ never changes, and so Paul's ministry towards Him never did either

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

