

December 1 Answers

- 1) Paul's **fourth** letter to the church at Corinth (called 2 Corinthians). Paul began by praising God for His **comfort** in all his afflictions, and he told the Corinthians that they shared with him in both the **suffering** and the comfort of Christ. This teaches us to patiently **endure** the sufferings that come our way, for God's comfort will enable us to be a blessing to **others** in their afflictions. Paul told the church what happened to him in Ephesus, and he encouraged them to pray for him. He did this to strengthen the ties between the Corinthians and himself, for he knew that we grow to **love** those for whom we pray. He then explained the **changes** he had made to his original travel plans (cf. 1 Cor 16:5–9). The effort he put into his explanation teaches us how important it is to maintain a reputation for **truthfulness** and dependability. Fickleness on our part can bring **reproach** on the name of Christ. He went on to urge the church to **forgive** the one who had "caused pain" (the individual who had rejected Paul's authority) and **comfort** him lest he be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. This teaches us the importance of **restoring** those who have sinned, for Satan will always try to take advantage of such situations.