

Affliction and Comfort



2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-7

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2 Corinthians 1:3-7



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

Theme and Roadmap



- **A major theme in chapters 1-9 – All consolation and encouragement in the world has its origin in God Himself.**

Our roadmap

1. Remember what God is to you (1:3)
2. Remember what God is for you (1:4)
3. Remember what God does through you (14b-6)

1. Remember What God Is to You (2 Cor. 1:3)



- **V. 3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**
- **Praise Him because He is God!**
- **Praise Him because He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**
- **Praise Him because He is the Father of mercies!**
- God in His grace gives us what we do not deserve, and in His mercy He does not give us what we do deserve.



- **Praise Him because He is the God of all comfort!**
- God puts strength into our hearts so we can face our trials and triumph over them.
- God can encourage us by His Word and through His Spirit, but sometimes He uses other believers to give us the encouragement we need .
- First step – to look up by faith to the Lord and realize all that God is to us.
- "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Psalms 121:1-2).

2. Remember what God is for you (v.4)



- **4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**
- There are some sufferings that we endure simply because we are human and subject to pain; but there are other sufferings that come because we are Gods people and want to serve Him.
- Trouble is not an accident!
- God encourages us in all our tribulations by teaching us from His Word that it is He who permits trials to come.

3. Remember what God does through you (4b-6)



- **4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**
- One reason for trials is so that you and I might learn to be channels of blessing to comfort and encourage others.
- We do not need to experience exactly the same trials in order to be able to share God's encouragement
- Our experience cannot alter the comfort of God.



Suffering is not easy to understand

- Sometimes we suffer because of our own sin and rebellion, as did Jonah.
- Sometimes we suffer to keep us from sinning, as was the case with Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- Suffering can perfect our character (Romans 5:1-5)
- And can help us to share the character of God (Hebrews 12:1-11).
- Sometimes we suffer to help us minister to others



- Patient endurance is an evidence of faith.
- Enduring difficulties patiently is a mark of spiritual maturity.
- God has to work in us before He can work through us
- When we suffer in the will of God, we are sharing the sufferings of the Savior.
- As sufferings increase, so does the supply of God's grace.
- God has ample grace for our every need, but he will not bestow it in advance.
- As we experience the grace of God in our daily lives, it is invested into our lives as godly character.

Conclusion



- There is a companionship to suffering
- Remember:
 - what God is to you - "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).
 - what God does for You - He is able to handle your trials and make them work out for your good and His glory.
 - what God does through you - and let Him use you to be an encouragement to others.

