

AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

The God Of All Comfort

II Corinthians 1:3-7

Παράκλησις paraklēsis (par-ak'-lay-sis)

“calling to one’s side”

comfort, consolation, encouragement, advocacy, etc.

Those in Need of Comfort in the Bible:

- Afflicted (Isaiah 40:1-2)
- Sorrowful (II Corinthians 2:7)
- Weak (I Thessalonians 5:14)
- Discouraged (II Corinthians 2:7)
- Troubled (II Corinthians 7:5-7)
- One another (I Thessalonians 4:18)

Sources of Comfort in the Bible:

- God (II Cor 1:3-4)
- Christ (Matthew 9:22)
- Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31)
- The Scriptures (Romans 15:4)
- Christian friends (II Cor. 7:6)

II Cor. 1:1-7 (Harold Willmington)

- The person of consolation and comfort (1:1-3)
- The purpose of consolation and comfort (vv. 4-5)
 - The root (v. 5): The more we suffer, the more God comforts us
 - The fruit (v. 4): the more He comforts us, the more we can comfort others.
- The pattern of consolation and comfort (vv. 6-7)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of ALL comfort,

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.

5 For as we SHARE abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we SHARE abundantly in comfort too.

Notes:

“I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all. Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? I also could speak as you do, if you were in my place; I could join words together against you and shake my head at you. I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips would assuage (alleviate) your pain.” -*Job's reply to Eliphaz (Job 16:1-5)*

- Don't talk just for the sake of talking
- Don't sermonize by giving pat answers
- Don't accuse or criticize
- Do put yourself in the other person's place
- Do offer help and encouragement (in the moment AND later on... and be specific)

- Comfort from God does not always translate to the removal of suffering.
- Often, the comfort of God looks like strength, encouragement, and hope to deal with our hardships.

- whipped with 39 lashes (5 different times)
- beaten with rods (3 different times)
- pummeled with stones (1 time)
- shipwrecked (3 times)
- adrift at sea (one night, one day)
- journeys (frequent)

[illegible]

- danger from rivers
- danger from robbers
- danger from his own people
- danger from Gentiles
- danger in the city
- danger in the wilderness
- danger at sea
- danger from false brothers
- toil and hardship
- sleepless nights (many)
- hungry and thirsty (often)
- cold and exposed
- the pressure of anxiety for all

Our own sufferings enable us to identify with those who suffer—and enable them to identify with us.

Ministry requires vulnerability. Our human frailties which make us susceptible to suffering, at the same time enable us to display God's comforting love. Only when we show our weakness can we also reveal the strength of our Lord.

Finding Meaning in Loss/Suffering (Jessica Curiel)

- Greater Empathy
- Healthier Priorities (brings things into focus)
- Deeper Communion with God
- New and Renewed Relationships

Point to Ponder as we Prepare to Part:

- The God of ALL comfort, comforts us so that we can comfort others.

Notes:

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