AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

The God Of All Comfort

II Corinthians 1:3-7	Notes:
Παράκλησις paraklēsis (par-ak'-lay-sis)	
"calling to one's side"	
comfort, consolation, encouragement, advocacy, etc.	
comfort, consolution, encouragement, au vocacy, 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)	
One another (1 Thessalomans 4.16)	
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)	
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II Cor. 1:1-7 (Harold Willmington)	
• The person of consolation and comfort (1:1-3)	
• The <u>purpose</u> 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)	
The pattern of consolation and connott (vv. 0-7)	
3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father	
of mercies and God of ALL comfort,	
01 11101 VIII 00 W 011122 V 0111201V,	
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.	

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6 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.	Notes:
7 Our hope for you is unshaken, for we KNOW that as you SHARE in our sufferings, you will also SHARE in our comfort.	
"God comforted Paul by the coming of Titus to Macedonia (7:6), just as Titus had previously been comforted by the Corinthians (7:7). Paul in turn will comfort the Corinthians (1:6), God's comfort thus having come full circle, from the Corinthians, through Titus to Paul, back to the Corinthians." <i>-Paul Barnett</i>	
*The circle all began with the experience of affliction and God's comfort overflowing to the comforted.	
"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." <i>-Job's reply to Eliphaz (Job 16:1-5)</i>	
 Practical lessons from Job for comforting others 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 ≠ Removal 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. 	
 In 2 Cor. 11:23-28 Paul resumé of suffering 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) 	

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danger from rivers	Notes:
 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 the churches (daily)	
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.	
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