

TOGETHER

DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNITY

MESSAGE: JASON MOOG

MUSIC: CARA STEWART, SHAWN HOELSCH

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Suffer & Comfort Together 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 ESV

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies (compassion) 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. (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. (7) Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. (8) For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. (9) Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. (10) He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. (11) You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

3 FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

1. WE ANTICIPATE SUFFERING WHILE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. (vv3-5,7)

(5) "Christ's sufferings overflow over to us...."

WE ALSO ANTICIPATE GOD TO ACT IN HARMONY WITH HIS NATURE (VV3-5,7)

a) God is **SOVEREIGN** over all suffering.

*(3) Blessed be **the God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Note: Comfort is the overall disposition that comes from resting in God's sovereign & loving rule.
(see Isaiah 40:1)

b) God is **FAMILIAR** with all suffering.

*(3) Blessed be the God and **Father** of our Lord Jesus **Christ**,*

c) God is the **SOURCE** of all compassion.

*(3) ...the **Father of mercies** and **God of... comfort**,*

d) God is **SUFFICIENT** for all comfort.

*(3)...the Father of mercies and God of **all** comfort, (4) who comforts us in **all** our troubles, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in **any** affliction,*

Psa 9:9-10 The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

2. WE ACT AS CONDUITS OF COMFORT—FOR GOD. (VV4-7,11)

*(4) [God] 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.*

a) "SO THAT" Suffering & comfort become communally beneficial (vv4,6).

*(5) For as **we share** abundantly in Christ's sufferings,*

so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

*(6) If we are afflicted (distressed), **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.*

GOD COMFORTS US, TO MAKE US COMFORTERS. (Example: 2 Cor 7:5-7)

b) "SO THAT" We might care for each other's hurts and carry one another's burdens.

(v11) You also must **help** us by **prayer**, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

HELP: **συνυπουργέω** 1. With 2. Under 3. Work

Galatians 6:2 Carry one another's **burdens**, and in doing so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

c) "SO THAT" We grow in our willingness to share the fruit of both pain and comfort.

(v7) Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you **share** in our sufferings, you will also **share** in our comfort.

1 Corinthians 12:26 ESV **If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.**

3. WE ANCHOR OURSELVES TO THE POWER & PROMISES OF GOD. (VV8-11)

(8) For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. (9) Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

What did Paul **anchor himself to** (concerning God's power & promises) ?

a) God is our **victory** (9) ... [But this happened] to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who **raises the dead**.

b) God is our **deliverer** (10) He **delivered** us from such a deadly peril, and he will **deliver** us. On him we have set our hope that he will **deliver** us again.

Ps 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

c) God is our **hope** (10b) On him we have set our **hope**....

Psalms 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Discussion & Reflection Questions:

1. As we anticipate times of suffering, why is it vital that we **also** anticipate God to be congruent with his character and nature during such times? Which of the facts about God (see sub-points of Truth #1: a, b, c, d) is especially helpful when facing a trial? (For further discussion: See also sub-points of Truth #3)

2. Read 2 Cor 1:4 and Paul's personal example in 2 Cor 7:5-7. Share a time in your life when you were able to comfort someone because of the comfort you once received from God (or vice-versa—"they were able to comfort you")?

3. How can we avoid isolating ourselves during times of hardship? What's the benefit of memorizing 2 Cor 1:4-6 or Gal 6:2?

SONGS

"I Am Set Free" – All Sons & Daughters

"Blessed Be Your Name – Beth Redman, Matt Redman

"O Come to the Altar" – Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye

"The Lion and the Lamb" – Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, Leeland Mooring

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$23,925.00

WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,391,310.00

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,434,139.00