

The God of All Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

com·fort /

1. to soothe, console, or reassure; bring cheer to.

Paul's Suffering – Our Suffering

The Intensity of Suffering

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death."

2 Cor. 1:8-9

The Unpredictability of Suffering

The Necessity of Suffering

"But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many." 2 Cor. 1:9b-11

"Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained. In other words, if it ever were possible to eliminate affliction from our earthly existence by means of some drug or other medical mumbo jumbo... the result would not be to make life delectable, but to make it too banal and trivial to be enduring. This, of course, is what the cross signifies. And it is the Cross, more than anything else, that has called me inexorably to Christ."
Malcolm Muggeridge

Paul's Comfort – Our Comfort

The Three Dimensions of Comfort

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

2 Cor. 1:3-4

Solving Problems or Providing Comfort?

Listening to Understand

"I have heard many things like these; miserable comforters are you all! Job 16:2

Recommended Reading:

Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians by Tom Wright

How Do I Help a Hurting Friend? by Rod Wilson