

Our God is the God of All Comfort

Background on 2 Corinthians:

This is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to believers in and around the city of Corinth. He lived among them for eighteen months preaching the gospel and establishing a local church. He had visited again and written to them in the past. He loved them, he was proud of them, and he was concerned for them. Paul's reputation has come under attack among the churches, and so he reminded them how he had served God among them – Paul's second letter to them teaches us who our God is and how to serve Him faithfully.

A. The _____ of the truth (1:3-5) in which we praise God because of how He comforts us and how we comfort others:

- 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 tribulation,
- that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,
- with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us,
so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

B. The _____ of the truth (1:6) in which whether a believer suffers or enjoys blessings, other believers are blessed:

- 6 Now
- if we are afflicted,
it is for your consolation and salvation,
- which is effective
- for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer.
- Or
- if we are comforted,
it is for your consolation and salvation.

C. The _____ of the truth (1:7) in which we know that after we suffer, we will be comforted:

- 7 And
our hope for you is steadfast,
 - because we know
 - that as you are partakers of the sufferings,
 so also
 - *you will partake* of the consolation.

D. The _____ of the truth (1:8-11) in which Paul's experience of suffering shows how blessings can flow through a believer toward others:

- 8 For
we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
 - of our trouble which came to us in Asia:
 - that we were burdened
 - beyond measure,
 - above strength,
 - so that we despaired even of life.
- 9 Yes,
we had the sentence of death in ourselves,
 - that we should trust not in ourselves
 but
 -[that we should trust] in God
 - who raises the dead,
- 10 - who delivered us from so great a death,
and
 -[who] does deliver us;
 - in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*,
- 11 - you also helping together
 - in prayer for us
 - that thanks may be given by many persons
 - on our behalf
 - for the gift *granted* to us through many.