

SUFFERING AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT
II COR. 1:1-7

Introduction:

- A. The preachers involved. v1a
 - 1. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ."
 - a. "by the will of God."
 - 2. "and Timothy."
 - a. "our brother."

- B. The people involved. v1b.
 - 1. "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth."
 - a. All letters involved preachers or churches.
 - 2. "with all the saints which are in all Achaia."
 - a. These too were members of churches, Paul is becoming aware of the sharing of his letters.

- C. The God involved. v2
 - 1. "Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 2. The Kind of God.
 - a. Grace = love, kindness, favor, bestowed.
 - b. Peace = peace of heart, peace of mind.

I. THE SOURCE OF ALL COMFORT. V3

- A. "Blessed be God."
 - 1. "even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 2. "the father of mercies."
 - a. mercies = oiktirmos = a sense of unhappiness for the ills of others.
 - 3. "and the God of all comfort."
 - a. comfort = paraklesis - a calling near, a summons to one's side, a consolatory exhortation.

- B. Carnal offerings cannot bring comfort.

1. There is no comfort in alcohol.
2. There is no comfort in drugs.
3. There is no comfort in business success.

II. THE CHRISTIAN WILL NEED COMFORT. V4a

- A. "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation."
1. We will have tribulation.
 2. tribulation = thlipsis - pressure, compression, hence pressure from evils.
 3. Paul had three sources of trouble.
 - a. The dangers of the early Apostles. 11:23-
 - b. The care of the churches. 11:28.
 - c. A thorn in the flesh, a special messenger of satan to buffet him.
- B. God comforted Paul.
1. "who comforteth us in all our tribulation."
 2. comfort = paraklesis - a calling near.

III. THE BEST WAY TO USE OUR EXPERIENCES. V4,6

- A. We may use our experiences in one of two ways.
1. As a personal lesson only.
 2. As an experience to share with others who are suffering the same problem.
 3. The many organizations, heart surgery, cancer, suicide, alcoholics, to share experiences.
- B. Paul knew why he had tribulations.
1. "that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble."
 2. How?
 - a. "by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."
 3. We can share it, if we have experienced it!
 4. Don't offer what you haven't felt.
 5. Don't offer pious platitudes.

C. As Christians we are to share. v5

1. We share in Christ's suffering.
 - a. Matt. 20:23 "Ye shall indeed drink of my cup and be baptized with the baptism wherewith I am baptized with."
 - b. Phil. 3:10 "That I may know him...and the fellowship of his sufferings."
 - c. I Peter 4:12-13 "in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering."
2. "as the sufferings of Christ abound in us."
 - a. abound = perisseuo - to be over and above, more than enough.
3. We are to share in His consolation.
 - a. So our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."
 - b. consolation = paraklesis - comfort.
 - c. Other translations:

The sufferings of Christ, it is true, overflow into our lives; but there is overflowing comfort, too, which Christ brings to us.-- Knox

As Christ's cup of suffering overflows, and we suffer with him, so also through Christ our consolation overflows.---NEB

For as we have more than our share of suffering for Christ, so also through Christ we have more than our share of comfort.--Wey.

For just as Christ's (own) sufferings fall to our lot [as they overflow upon His disciples, and we share and experience them] abundantly, so through Christ comfort and consolation and encouragement are also [shared and experienced] abundantly by us. --Amp.

IV. HOW GOD CAN USE OUR EXPERIENCES. V6

- A. "And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation."
 1. afflicted = thlibo - to press, squeeze, throng, crowd; to oppress.
 2. consolation = paraklesis - comfort.

B. "which is effectual in the enduring of the same suffering we suffer."

1. effectual = energeo - energy - to be at work, be in active operation.
2. enduring = hupomene - a remaining under, (stay under the load) endurance.
3. It will help you to do what we do.

C. "or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."

1. comforted = same.
2. consolation = same.
3. salvation = same.

V. GOD IS FAITHFUL, THOSE WHO SHARE IN SUFFERING, WILL SHARE IN COMFORT. V7

A. "And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the suffering, so shall ye be also of the consolation."

B. God will allow us to be tested, but He will also comfort us in our suffering.

1. Why?
 - a. Ourselves.
 - b. Others.