

This week...

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Monday 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a *“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,”*

What great Christian truths stand out in Paul’s greeting to the Corinthians? Spend some time putting into your own words the significance behind *“Father of compassion”*, *“God of all comfort”*, and *“who comforts us in all our troubles.”* List three important times in your life that you experienced His comfort in your troubles.

Tuesday 2 Corinthians 1:4b *“so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”*

Have you been able to comfort someone else in their troubles? Did you do it according to the comfort you have received from God? What is the difference between comfort offered according to worldly wisdom and methods and that offered from a godly perspective through Christ? What does Christian comfort offer that worldly comfort does not? (*Don’t forget to remember who Jesus said would be our “Comforter”*.).

Wednesday 2 Corinthians 1:5 *“For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.”*

When have you seen or experienced the sufferings of Christ flowing into your life? What caused the suffering? How do sufferings result in comfort overflowing? Thinking of your church, how might you be an instrument of comfort in the midst of some form of suffering?

Thursday 2 Corinthians 1:6 *“If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.”*

Read Paul’s comments to the Philippians in Philippians 2:3-4, and compare what he says there with this verse to the Corinthians. What Christian quality is behind this sort of attitude?

Friday 2 Corinthians 1:7 *“And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.”*

Is there something going on in your personal life or that of your church to which these words speak? Pray for the comfort of the Lord to sustain you through those sufferings that you are able to identify. Take time to also reflect on the meaning and purpose of the church (*assembly, body of Christ, fellowship*) as you face difficult situations. Are you contributing to a positive, healthy, and godly outcome to the sufferings of your brothers and sisters in Christ?