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Sermon Notes

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## **The God of All Comfort**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-11**

### I. The Source of Comfort: God

*vs. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort*

A. Praise While Suffering a Strange Reaction for the Flesh

1. Extreme trials... tendency to complain, to pull inward, to look inward

2. Naturally to upbraid adverse circumstances... to murmur, to question, to resist and rebel

B. Truly regenerate people have learned to look upward and praise God no matter what the circumstances

*Job 1:20-21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."*

*Acts 16:23-25 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

C. Paul Focuses Totally on God for Comfort

***“God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”***

Paul's heart is warmed to bless God, His heart is full of worship to God, because of the taste of sweet mercy that he has received and experienced

Sibbes: "It is the disposition of God's children, after they have tasted the sweet mercy and comfort and love of God, to break forth into the praising of God and to thanksgiving."

"It is as natural for the new creature to do so as for the birds to sing in the spring. When the sun has warmed the poor creature, it shows its thankfulness by singing. And that little blood and spirits it has being warmed after winter, it is natural for those little creatures so to do. It is as natural for the new creature, when it feels the Sun of righteousness warming the soul, when it tastes the mercy of God in Christ, to show itself forth in thankfulness and praise; and it can no more be kept from it, than fire can keep from burning, or water from cooling."

#### D. God and Father of Christ

##### 1. Eternally Triune... never changes

Note: God does not need our praises, is not lacking anything. He is blessed, whether we bless Him or not, and He is praised, whether we praise Him or not.

Before God created the universe, He existed in Trinity... Father, Son, and Spirit. There was no lack of love, relationship, even praise going from one person of the Trinity to the other. God is eternally blessed in and of Himself.

But we need to praise Him... and it is good as the beginning of our comforts to focus totally on God

##### 2. Forever blessed, the only source of our comfort

##### 3. The Ultimate Comfort from God: Sending His Son into the World

### ***"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"***

#### 1) We should fill our minds with thoughts of God's eternal nature... Father, Son, Spirit

God never changes... is eternally worthy of our greatest praise and worship

If God was worth praising the last time your circumstances were favorable, He is still worthy now

God is still powerful

#### 2) We should meditate on God's priceless gift of **"our Lord Jesus Christ"**

#### 3) We ought to bless God for Christ: our mediator, our Great High Priest, our Atonement, our Lord

#### 4) We should realize that the foundation of all our comforts from God is His far greater gift of Christ

***Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?***

5) We should rejoice that God has adopted us to be His own children... so not only is He the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, but He is by adoption our Father as well

E. The Father of Mercies

**vs. 3 *the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort***

1. NIV has “compassion”... it goes deeper than that
2. Mercy is God’s grace to persons in misery... grace shows the freeness of it, mercy shows the miserable state of the person receiving the blessing

Sibbes: “Always where mercy is, either there is present or else possible misery.”

F. The God of Comfort

**vs. 3 *the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort***

## II. The Need for Comfort: Suffering

1. Paul Has Gone Through Severe Trials

**vs. 8-9 *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. Paul expects to go through many more

***1 Corinthians 4:9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.***

## III. The Types of Comfort

A. Comfort of Physical Blessings

B. Comfort of Spiritual Blessings

C. Comfort of Communion: the Holy Spirit

#### IV. The Purpose of Comfort

A. The Sustain Us Through Trials

B. To Teach Us to Look to God Alone

C. To Equip Us to Comfort Others

#### V. Application