

HOW GOD HELPS IN SUFFERING

TRUSTING THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation"

~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1. When Suffering Happens

- a. We learned last week hope in the Lord is greater than the hope of healing
- b. At times, it seems there is nothing greater than our suffering. We all need help.
- c. Life can be distressing, and unbearable, the days linger, the flesh and heart fails.
- d. Where is the hope? The victory? The relief?

2. The God of All Comfort

- a. The comforts of the world never last. They ultimately come up short without hope.
- b. Solutions such as: ignore it "time will heal", laugh at it, change topic, comfort pleasures, 'always look on the bright side', power of positive thinking fails on death
- c. God is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort – 2 Cor 1:3-4
- d. There is hope for consolation only when we trust in God - 2Co 1:7-10
- e. God comforts as he works today through the gospel, the Bible, the church.

3. Comfort in the Gospel

- a. God confronts the problem and provides the solution in salvation through Christ
- b. God knows suffering and pain – Heb 4:15, Phil 2:6-8
- c. Your sins are forgiven (regret, pain, grief) – Col 2:13, Col 1:14, Rom 3:23, 4:7
- d. Christ's suffering was real, but so was his glory -1Pet 4:13, Rom 8:18, Col 1:27
- e. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are miserable - 1 Cor 15:19
- f. God's healing program today is death and resurrection. It is a trade-in program.
- g. We know things by the gospel that gives us hope – Psa 116:10, 2 Cor 4:13-17

4. Comfort from the Bible

- a. Hope allows us to suffer pain for a greater reward, sacrifice for something we cherish
- b. The athlete works for the prize, the worker the paycheck, the soldier the end of war
- c. Before hope we need patience – patience is what keeps us going til hope is fulfilled
- d. Patience and hope come from the scriptures - Rom 15:4-5
- e. When our outward man perish, we need renewal day by day – 2 Cor 4:16-17
- f. When things are going well we think we are spiritual giants... then bad things happen
- g. Spiritual weakness leads to being overwhelmed by emotions, doubts, fears in circum.
- h. 2 Cor 12:9 was not the first time Paul suffered, nor heard of God's grace
- i. What we need is godliness, spiritual strength, which profits unto all things - 1Ti 4:8-10
- j. Paul prays for strength in the inner man, and so should you – Eph 3:16

5. Comfort in the Church

- a. When Christ's body was on Earth it suffered and died, we are His body – Col 1:24
- b. Paul says we bear about in the body the dying of the Lord - 2 Cor 4:6-10
- c. The body of Christ comforts, bears all things, weeps together 2 Cor 1:6. Col 4:8
- d. Comfort one another with these words – 1 Thess 4:18, 2 Thess 1:4, 2:16-17, 3:4
- e. God has given everything you need already – His grace is sufficient.