

# Sermon Notes

## EMBRACING GOD'S COMFORT

*2 Corinthians 1:3-11*

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**Message: Because God is the Father of comfort, we should receive and in turn share His grace of comfort with thanksgiving.**

### **I. Introduction**

1. So often the initial reaction to painful suffering is Why me? Why this? Why now? Our fundamental problem is that too often we think of God in our own terms. We want a God who will adapt himself to suit our wants.
2. Sadly, this can be, as much a problem for professing Christians as for unbelievers. There is the temptation to retreat into idolatry in the face of great affliction. And self-interest starts to reconfigure who God is.
3. One of the turning moments in a believer's life is when he let God be God, whose ways are not our ways, whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts, whose Word is the will for our lives.

### **II. We will receive the grace of the Father's comfort in all affliction(1:3-4a)**

1. The dominant picture in our passage is comfort in affliction. Suffering is referred to 17 times. Comfort is mentioned 9 times. This God-given comfort in affliction needs to be seen in the larger scheme of things – His ring of grace.

#### **A. The affliction Paul faced (1:8, 9a)**

#### **B. His confidence in affliction (1:10)**

#### **C. The teacher in affliction (1:9b)**

#### **D. The benefactor of ALL our comfort : GOD (1:3b)**

#### **E. The comfort that God gives in All our affliction (1:4a)**

“In the service of Christ . . . there may be disappointments, but there cannot be despair; there may be conflicts, but never doubt; there may be afflictions, but never without comfort.”  
.... Philip Hughes

### **III. We should act as intermediaries of His grace (1: 4b -7).**

1. And that is what Paul in 1:4b said. God comforts us in all affliction “so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”. This verse is full of the idea of mediation.

**A. We mediate the God’s grace through comfort we received.(1:4b)**

**B. We mediate God’s grace for our brethren’s patient endurance and salvation in affliction (1:6)**

**C. We mediate God’s grace by praying for our brethren(1:11a)**

**D. The Ring of Grace**

**IV. We should always give thanks for the grace of His comfort (1:3a, 1:11b)**

1. “thanksgiving claims nothing. It sees no merit in man’s receiving but only in God’s giving. Thanksgiving marvels at God’s mercy. It is the language of joy just because it need look no longer to its own resources. It is an expression of dependence on another.” ...Dick Lucas.

**A. The response to God’s grace**

**B. Giving thanks for God’s comfort of the Corinthians (1:3a)**

**C. Giving thanks for Paul’s blessings (1:11b)**

**V. Conclusion**

1. Even as our Father comforts in affliction, Paul speaks to us on 3 fronts:
2. We are to trust and rest confidently on our Father who through Christ will comfort us in all our afflictions as a church for the sake of Christ and His gospel.
3. Knowing these blessings of comfort and our afflictions are for the benefit of the family of Christ, we are to encourage our brethren with the same comfort we received as well as to pray for their uplifting.
4. We return thanks to the Lord for His gifts of grace to us and our community of brethren by praise and prayers as part of the ring of grace.