

Blessed is God, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

B. Only when we come to the point where there is no earthly solution can God invade and make beauty out of darkness.

C. The psalmist's countenance is changed when he stopped listening to his soul and started talking to it. (Psalm 43)

D. God is a comforter, Father, Son and Spirit. (Isaiah 49, 51, 52, 66, Philippians 4:13)

E. Pain was a major mark of Paul's apostleship. He does not complain though because his suffering enabled him to express the power of God in his weakness.

II. There is a promise of comfort.

A. God will not leave us comfortless. (Romans 8:31)

B. We ought not to despair because God is with us.

C. God will do whatever he needs to do to sustain us. (Philippians 1:6)

III. The purpose of comfort is so that God can strengthen others in their trials. All comfort comes from God. Everything else is a sham.

IV. There are parameters to comfort.

A. God's comfort extends to whatever extent we suffer for Christ.

B. Chastening comes from sin not comfort.

C. We are not to run from suffering for Christ. (1 Peter 4:12-16, Galatians 6:17, Colossians 1:24, Philippians 3, Matthew 10, Hebrews 13:13)

V. The partnership of suffering.

A. Paul's suffering was for those who he served. (2 Corinthians 12)

B. Suffering enables others to suffer.

C. There is mutuality in suffering.

D. The goal is to get beyond ourselves in suffering.

Application Questions:

1. When have you experienced God's comfort in suffering?

2. Why is it important to distinguish righteous suffering from suffering resulting from sin?

3. How can you comfort others in light of the suffering that you have been through? Explain.
