

## True and Lasting Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

*“Sorrow is that inheritance to which every man is born; even truly godly people, as long as they continue in this Valley of Tears, will, at a greater or smaller distance, be followed by two inseparable attendants: sorrow and sighing”* - Charles Spurgeon

God has always been the God of comfort. (Psalm 23:4, 71:21) Both OT saints and NT saints have found their comfort in God.

- God is not redundant. He would not be the God of *comfort* if mankind never experienced affliction.

The reality is, mankind is going to experience affliction. We live in a fallen and broken world.

**Job 5:6-7** “For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground, but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward”

Affliction is *anything that causes pain or suffering*, and it has the ability to affect us from the **past**, from our **present** daily struggles, and things we worry about in the **future**. So how do we deal with affliction?

**Comfort from Daily Afflictions:** (Vs. 3-4) The Lord comforts us in *all* our afflictions. Without exception.

The Holy Spirit is called the **Paraclete**: The Comforter (John 14:16, 16:7) We are able to call upon Him at all times through prayer.

- His promises are there for us to find comfort in. (Psalm 119:49-50)
- He supplies every one of our needs (Phil 4:19)

**God Comforts Us Through Others** (Vs. 4-6) The comfort we receive from God will encourage others to do the same.

- The Lord used Paul for others to find comfort and confidence in God. (Phil 1:12-14)
- God is training us to be comforters through affliction
- Titus comforted Paul by simply being there for him, on top of the good news Titus brought him. (2 Cor 7:5-7)

### Comfort in Our Salvation

The gospel produces a comfort for the soul knowing that the guilt and penalty of our sin has been completely taken care of by the work of Jesus Christ.

- The weight of sin is meant to afflict us, to crush us. This shows us our need for a Savior (Acts 2:37)
- The Gospel is the remedy for a sin-afflicted soul. (Acts 2:38-41) and brings great joy! (Vs. 42, 46-47)
- We have eternal hope and comfort through the Gospel (2 Thes 2:16-17)
- Christ's sacrifice was an affliction that He took in our place. We will never have to experience it. This was a “once for all” sacrifice that cannot and will not be repeated (Heb 10:10)

**Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of November we are collecting monetary donations for the Lambs. The Lambs live and serve in Papua New Guinea, working to translate the Bible into the multiple native languages of that region. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Lambs. Currently, the Lambs' budget is 91% funded. They are still seeking 9% of their budget, which is \$990 per month. (This budget is set for them by Wycliffe Bible Translators, and it is fine-tuned to allow them to live and work for a 3-year term in PNG.) A monthly gift of \$110 will cover 1% of their budget. If you are interested in partnering with their ministry, talk to one of the elders and they will get you the necessary information.

★**FRIENDSGIVING:** Mark your calendars — our annual Friendsgiving Dinner is scheduled for ***THIS*** Saturday, November 18th, at 5:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall! There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the Friendsgiving Dinner. We invite everyone to join us and plan on staying for fellowship and games! If you have any questions, please see Emily Decker.  
**(740-258-9995)**

★We will NOT be having a worship service on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd!