

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 Study Questions

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

After greeting the believers in Corinth, Paul begins the letter by praising God. **What do you think brought on this spontaneous burst of praise?**

Verse 4 says, "God comforts us in all our affliction." Paul experienced this very comfort in the middle of his afflictions. We don't know for sure which affliction Paul was talking about in this passage, but he does describe some difficulties later in 2 Corinthians 11:23-29.

If God does not comfort us by removing our afflictions, what kind of comfort should we expect? How are we comforted by Him?

In verse 3, Paul describes God as the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. Understand this is a description of God's character and not just his actions. We receive comfort based on who He is and now who we are. **How does knowing the character of God comfort us in the midst of affliction?**

What two things abound in Christ (v.5)?

In verse 9 it says, "Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

How do afflictions turn our eyes back to Him?

The book of Lamentations was written in the aftermath of the fall of Jerusalem. In the wake of that cultural disaster, we read in Lamentations 3:22-26 "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." 25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. 26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

In the midst of destruction, they declare "The Lord is my portion." **Can you find 2 or 3 other passages of Scripture which describe people receiving the comfort of God in the midst of affliction?**

In what ways have you experienced God's comfort in a difficult situation?

Verses 3 and 4 describe a chain of comfort.

Comfort originates from God -> He comforts us -> We comfort others

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our 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.

How does experiencing God's comfort enable you to demonstrate that comfort to others?

How can we point people to the God of all comfort in a respectful, caring way?

What other observations or questions do you have about the passage?

