

Comfort through Christ's Cross
2 Corinthians 1:3-11

I. **The Christian's comfort is...**

- Christ-centered in its foundation (1:3, 5, 9)
- Circulatory in its function (1:4)
- Corporate in its focus (1:5-7)
- Confident in its future (1:7)
- Compassionate in its fruit (1:6-7, 11)
- Consecrated in its finality (1:10)

II. **The Christian's affliction is...**

- Seen by God (1:4a)
- Sanctified by God (1:4b-7)
- Shared with God (1:5)
- Surrounded by God (1:4a)
- Secure in God (1:8-10)
- Sovereignly appointed by God (1:9b)

III. **The Christian's response to affliction and God's comfort:**

- Increased worship to our heavenly Father (1:3)
- Increased hope in God's plan for His Church (1:7, 10)
- Increased faith in God's deliverance (1:9-10)
- Increased love for God and for one another (1:3, 11)

Observations

1. Without affliction (or the possibility of affliction), comfort (as a verb) does not exist.
2. God ordains temporary affliction for His children because through this affliction comes a deeper comfort that is eternal and essential for true Christianity. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)
3. The greatest example of God ordaining temporary affliction for His children and then using that affliction for eternal comfort is found in the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son and our Savior. (1:5, 9-10)
4. Christian comfort is sourced in the character of God. (1:3)

BIG IDEA: Perfect comfort is only found through faith in Christ.

Application

1. Worship God for His sustaining grace and comfort through His Son.
2. Hope in God's comfort as you suffer through times of affliction.
3. Ask God to increase your faith in Him as He comforts you through seasons of affliction.
4. Grow in your love for God and for one another as you comfort one another with God's comfort that He gives you.