

Characteristics of Biblical Christian Comfort (*2 Corinthians 1:3-11*)

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

I. The Christian's comfort is...

- _____ - _____ in its foundation (1:3, 5, 9)
- Circulatory in its _____ (1:4)
- _____ in its focus (1:5-7)
- Confident in its _____ (1:7)
- _____ in its fruit (1:6-7, 11)
- Consecrated in its _____ (1:10)

II. The Christian's affliction is...

- _____ by God (1:4a)
- _____ by God (1:4b-7)
- _____ with God (1:5)
- _____ by God (1:4a)
- _____ in God (1:8-10)
- _____ appointed by God (1:9b)

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

- Increased _____ to our heavenly Father (1:3)
- Increased _____ in God's plan for His Church (1:7, 10)
- Increased _____ in God's deliverance (1:9-10)
- Increased _____ 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. (4:16-18)
 - *“Storms are God’s way of bringing us into deeper grace.” (R. Kent Hughes)*
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)

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Application

1. _____ God for His sustaining grace and comfort through His Son.
2. _____ in God’s comfort as you suffer through times of affliction.
3. _____ God to increase your faith in Him as He comforts you through seasons of affliction.
4. _____ in God’s comfort that He has both *given* and *entrusted* to you.