



**LIFE BEYOND:
COMFORT & MERCY**

2 COR 1:3-11



2 Corinthians 1:

3 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 will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your



2 Corinthians 1:

comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are *sharers* of our comfort. 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that



2 Corinthians 1:

we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, ¹¹ you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.



FATHER GOD

- MAN'S GREAT EQUALIZER IS GRIEF AND SUFFERING
- MAN'S ANSWERS ARE LIMITED
- BLESSED GOD...
 - FATHER OF MERCIES
 - GOD OF ALL COMFORT
 - AN INVITATION TO HELP AND RELATIONSHIP

FATHER OF MERCIES

- MAN'S POISONED LIFE NEEDS MERCY!
- MOST OF OUR HURTS, FEARS, FAILURES – MERCY!!!
- *OIKTIRMON* 7X IN NEW TESTAMENT
- NOTE: PLURAL! MANY ACTS...
- CONTINUOUS ACTIONS



Mercy/Compassion

Ro 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Php 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

GOD OF ALL COMFORT

- *PARAKLESEOS* 10X IN 3-7!
- TO CALL TO ONE'S SIDE, FOR HELP, SUPPORT
- PARACLETOS! – HOLY SPIRIT; JOHN 14-16
- STRENGTH, ENABLEMENT, CONFIDENCE
- “WE”, “OUR”, “US” – SAME FOR ALL!

AFFLICTIONS?

- “ALL/ANY OUR AFFLICTION” (*THILIPSIS*)
 - PRESSING, CRUSHING, WEIGHED DOWN
 - NARROWING TO REDUCE EXCESS BAGGAGE!
 - GOD IS NOT CRUEL OR HAPHAZARD
 - COMFORTED BY GOD! PAUL’S NEED!



God's Plan

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

SUFFERINGS... OF CHRIST?

- VS. 5 – SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST
 - IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST
 - DIFFERENT FROM SUFFERING FROM...
 - WHAT/WHY DID HE SUFFER???
- LOVE OF GOD POURED OUT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

TRUST IN OURSELVES?

- GOD HAS A BETTER PLAN!
- PAUL HAD FACED DEATH IN ASIA PROVINCES
- TRUST IN GOD – WHO RAISES THE DEAD!
- WHO DELIVERED... WILL DELIVER... YET DELIVERS
- JOINING IN HELPING IN PRAYERS... MANY!

A crowd of people is shown in silhouette, with their hands raised in prayer. The background is a blue-lit stage with a band performing. The text "UNITED PRAYER" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters.

UNITED PRAYER