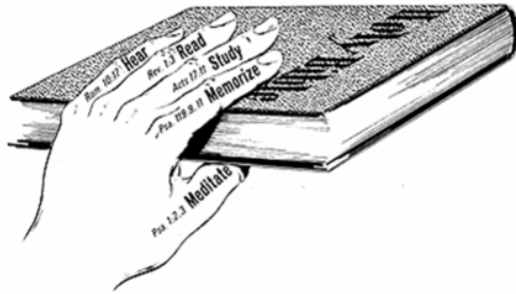


How do I Delight myself in the LORD?

- Get to know God better
 - Through His word
 - Hearing
 - Reading
 - Studying
 - Memorizing
 - Meditating



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, 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.

Our passage for today is: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

- Introduction to the book.
 - Why are there 2 letters?
 - Church founded by Paul in 2nd missionary journey.
 - Paul was there for about 18 months.
 - 1 Corinthians was written in response to Paul hearing of the problems there.

So, what are the problems in Corinth?

- I want a New Testament church...
- There is division and discord.
 - Paul tells them they are spiritual babies and they need love.
- They need to deal with sexual immorality (not even the pagans...)
- They have misunderstandings about marriage and divorce.
- The improper use of freedom and hurting other people.
- Contention over head coverings, drunkenness.
- Communion services were disgraceful!
- They had a faulty view of the resurrection.

It was still called the church of God in Corinth, and believers are addressed as brothers and sisters.

Then what happened?

- Paul sends Titus to instruct and encourage.
- When Titus did not return soon enough, Paul leaves Ephesus.
- After Paul meets Titus at Troas, Paul writes 2 Corinthians.
- The Corinthians have corrected some of the issues, but there are others that need spiritual direction and attention.

What are the problems at Corinth now?

- They need to comfort the repentant.
- They need to understand the gospel more completely.
- False teachers are maligning Paul's apostolic authority.

In response to that last issue, there are parts of this letter that are like a summarized autobiographical sketch of Paul's life.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

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 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.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

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 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.

Comfort the disturbed.
Disturb the comfortable.

- What is a comfort zone?
- What is the problem with living completely within the comfort zone?
- Why can't I have a comprehensively comfortable life?
- The three names of God in verse 3:
 - Father of Lord Jesus Christ
 - Father of mercies.
 - God of all comfort.
- I am distressed.
 - Emotions in my life...

COMFORT

- Some form of the word "Parakaleo"
- To come alongside and encourage.
- John 14:26-27 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Comfort is "comes alongside and encourages."

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 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.

God grants
comfort.

Work towards
gaining comfort.

Others pray
for comfort.

What do we know from scripture?

- God is a compassionate comforter.
- God cares and will comfort me.
- I need to look for the comfort that God is providing.
 - Sometimes it is by the prayer of others.
 - Sometimes it is by someone else coming alongside.
 - Sometimes it is by deliverance.
- Being comforted is meant to be more than just a blessing to me.

How can God use my suffering?

- Romans 8:28 says:
And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- But how does God cause all things to work together for the good?
- Our passage in 2 Corinthians have 3 “that” phrases

What’s up with the “that” phrase...

Verse 4

that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- My comfort is equipping me to help and comfort others. It is one of the ways that I can a blessing to others.

What’s up with the “that” phrase...

• **Verse 7**

that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

- We can come alongside and sympathize and empathize with those that are suffering. That person is not alone in their struggle(s).

What's up with the "that" phrase...

- **Verse 9**

that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

- In the midst of my struggle, it is not all about me. It is not in my strength I overcome.
- God raises from the dead. God delivered. God delivers. God will deliver.

Hope in God.

So what does that mean for each of us today?

- We live in a hurt, dying, and broken world, full of hurting, and hurtful people.
- We are still experiencing the presence of evil, and the power of evil.
- We are to be the feet, hands, face, and heart of Jesus to those around us.
- Each of us can comfort wherewith we have been comforted. Each of us has a part.
- What is my part? That is between you and the Holy Spirit (The Comforter).