

This Way Up

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – Jun 14, 2009
Series No. DA-2COR-01

The Source of True Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:1-8

I. SEQUENCE

Paul visited Corinth three times and wrote 4 letters to the Church in Corinth, two of which are included in the inspired record.

II. SUMMARY

This letter was written

1. To express his joy for the favourable response to a painful letter he wrote them (chapters 1-7),
2. To remind them to send a gift for the needy Christians in Judea (chapters 8-9), and
3. To defend his apostolic authority (chapters 10-13)

III. SALUTATION (Verses 1-2)

1. This letter was written to the church at Corinth and to all believers throughout southern Greece. While the contents were specific to Corinth they had general application to the church elsewhere.
2. Paul presents his credentials as God's Apostle with authority to speak for God.

IV. SOURCE OF COMFORT (Verses 3-8)

God is the source of all comfort; He provides this comfort to suffering believers through believers who have experienced similar suffering.

Notice the close link between suffering and comfort which appear 8 and 10 times respectively.

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Application

PRINCIPLES OF COMFORT

1. Done by one who understands the sufferer (Greek)
2. God the Father is the source of all comfort (*1:3*)
3. The Holy Spirit is the comforter who comes along side (*John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7*)
4. Christ is the one who comforts (*Jn. 14:1*)
5. God uses those who have suffered to comfort others
6. The goal of comfort is to strengthen the sufferer in his faith walk with the Lord (*1 Thess. 3:2, 7; 2 Thess. 2:16-17*)
7. Comfort does not primarily ease the suffering but enables the sufferer to bear it

PRINCIPLES OF SUFFERING

THE PROMISE: Know that God will comfort you in all of your sufferings (*vs. 3; 4a*)

THE PROFIT: Suffering is meant to enable you to comfort others who suffer (*vs. 4; 6a*)

THE PROCESS: The degree of your suffering is the degree to which you can comfort others (*vs. 5*)

THE POSITIVE: Be confident that your suffering will ultimately benefit others (*vs. 7a*)

THE PERSISTENCE: Suffering is endurable when you know it will ultimately help others (*vs. 6b*)

THE PARTNER: Suffering is endurable when you know you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ (*vs. 5*)