The God of Comfort

Ken Chapman · 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

INTRODUCTION

- We are largely what we are and do what we do because of others.
- Our attitudes and often our actions are molded and shaped by the attitude and actions that others have shown toward us, then the apostle Paul should have been the most bitter character on earth, because he was so mistreated.
- Paul did not radiate the hatefulness and the antagonism and the persecution that was heaped upon him by others. Paul radiated the love and the grace and the mercy that had been heaped upon him by God.

1 Blessed Be the Father of Mercies

2 Corinthians 1:3; 1 Timothy 1:12–16

- Blessed be the Father of mercies. What a designation for our God.
- That means that He is a Father who grants and shows mercy and does so abundantly.
- The idea of grace is God giving us a gift. Mercy is the idea of God showing us compassion.
- I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who has enabled me because he counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry. Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man.
- I see the Father of mercies in Paul. And then I'm forced to admit that I see the Father of mercies in me as well.

2 The God of All Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3; John 14

- Literally means the idea of to cause someone to be beside you. To stand or to sit beside.
- It might be somebody to help you. The idea of having someone stand beside you in your day in court.
- They just came and they sat beside him and they didn't say a word.
- What they need is just somebody to be there beside them. That's the word comfort. He is the God of all comfort. Because he is there with us.
- He says, I'm not going to leave you as orphans. Your translation may say there in John chapter 14, I'm going to send another comforter.

3 Who Comforts Us in All Our Tribulation

2 Corinthians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

- We have the God of all comfort. The Father of mercies. Standing beside us, comforting us.
- I've been through it, but not alone. The Father of mercies, the God of all comfort, has been beside me and has comforted me in all my tribulation.
- God helped Paul through knowledge.

- Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.
- For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- God comforted Paul and us through hope. The hope of that far more an exceeding weight of glory.

4 That We May Be Able to Comfort Others

2 Corinthians 1:3–4; 2 Corinthians 1:5–11

- Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are any trouble with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- But God has comforted me that I might comfort others in their tribulation.
- But we get to choose. Paul had a choice.
- Was he going to reflect and imitate those who had mistreated him and hated him? Or was he going to reflect and imitate the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.
- That's not a light that generates from within us, but it's a light that we reflect.
- For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you come to the Father of mercies this morning and let him forgive you of your sins as you obey him and are baptized into the blood of his Son this morning?

MY NOTES