

Suffering and Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

I. Comfort is a By-Product of Suffering 1:3-4

1. Comfort defined
2. We are promised that the comfort will surely come
3. We are to pass on the Comfort we have received -- 4b
4. Comfort comes from believing God's Word and looking to Christ

II. The Value of both Suffering and Comfort 1:5-7

III. The Magnitude of Paul's Suffering v. 8-9a

IV. The Disease this Suffering Helped Prevent – Self-Trust v. 9b

V. The Three-fold Deliverance of God v. 10

VI. The Value of Prayer v. 11

1. God has commanded us to pray for one another.
2. Prayer teaches us our unworthiness.
3. The benefits of prayer go beyond the answers we receive
4. There is a thankfulness that comes from answered prayer

VII. Seven Benefits from Trials (adapted from Andrew Bonar)

1. Trials show God is in earnest with us.
2. Trials assure me that I am loved.
3. Trials draw prayer to us.
4. Trials knit us in empathy to others.
5. Trials makes us more receptive to spiritual benefits.
6. Trials make us look up
Col 3:1 – Since you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.
7. Trials turn our hope to the second coming and the final consummation of all things.