

## Background:

1. Written approximately 1 year after the 1<sup>st</sup> letter.
2. Paul enumerated the problems in the church (1<sup>st</sup> letter), then there arose a wave of distrust in relation to Paul himself which swept throughout the church.
3. Their distrust:
  - “Paul was not sincere”
  - They questioned his authority (their sin nature = “who does Paul think he is to be judging us”?)
  - Their perception: “Paul was in it for the money.”
4. So in this wonderful letter Paul details what the life ministry of the Lord should look like through us as a vessel. This is how you recognize that the source of ministry is from the life of the Lord Jesus and not out of self.
5. Paul is not at all defending his life & ministry but just simply explaining how he lives (by faith) and how God then uses him as a vessel in His ministry.

## Theme:

The character of Christ’s life & ministry through a servant of God to fulfill His eternal purpose (d<sup>e</sup>claring, s<sup>h</sup>aring & r<sup>e</sup>vealing His Glory).

<sup>3</sup>*Blessed be **the** God and Father of our (**the**) Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Blessed-* eulogētos- **To speak well of**

**THE** Definite article pointing out  
**THE** GOD and **THE** LORD JESUS SAVIOR

*The **Father of mercies** and God of all **comfort**,*

**THE** Father of Mercies -oikteiroo- compassion

God of all **comfort** -parakleseos- to call near or to one's  
side, encouragement

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies (compassions) and God of all comfort;**

4. Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may 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.

## “the God of all comfort” - 1:3

### • The Major Theme in This Section Is “Comfort”

#### • Observe the usage :

- “Comfort” - as a noun, 6 times (1:3; 1:4; 1:5; 1:6; 1:6, 1:7)
- “Comfort” - as a verb , 4 times (1:4; 1:4; 1:4; 1:6)

#### • What Does “Comfort” Mean?

- “Comfort” - as a verb - from *parañ* , to the side of, and *kaleô* , to call. Hence, to console ( to solace, to set at rest ), to comfort
- “Comfort” - as a noun a consolation ( a solace, a setting at rest ), a comfort, an exhortation

### • God is “the God of all comfort” 1:3

- He is the only source of true comfort.
- There is no one but God that can set our hearts at rest & truly comfort us.

### • Why Do We Need God’s Comfort ?

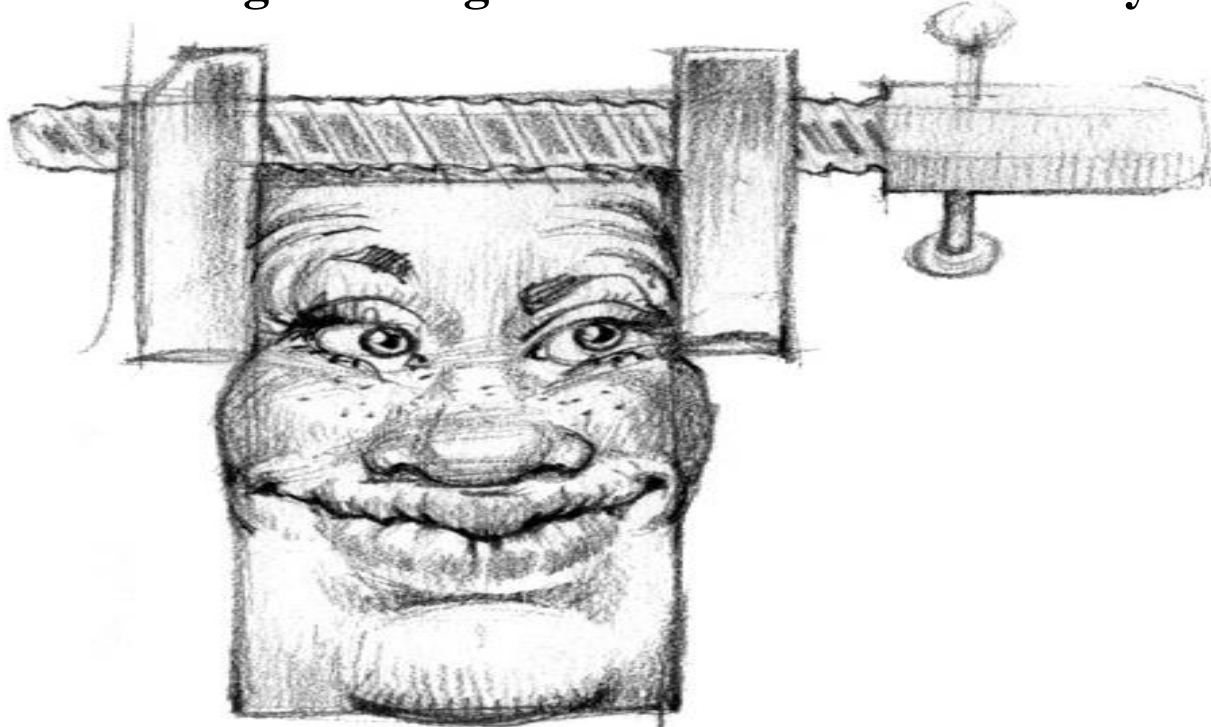
- We need the Lord to set our hearts at rest during the difficult circumstances in our Christian walk.

4''Who comforts us in all our **tribulation**,....

Tribulation / Affliction / Trouble - (thlipsis), a **pressure**, an affliction

Afflict, Affliction, Anguish, Distress, Distressed, Tribulation, Trouble

Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.



*4"Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort (encourage "to stir up our hearts") them who are in any trouble, by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted of God."* NKJV

Principle:

Affliction provides opportunity for us to learn more of our Father in His mercy, as well as providing a deeper understanding of what others may be called upon to go through.

The Lord deals with us in order that we might be able to minister in an apt way. T A-S NBHH

*4''Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted of God.'' NKJV*

God's comfort is never absent from any one of our afflictions.

God's comfort is present in every one of our afflictions.

God's comfort or setting our hearts at rest is not only for our personal relief but for us to identify & minister to others.

**Just think, your affliction may be God's preparation for you to minister to others.**

<sup>5</sup> *For just as the **sufferings** of Christ are ours in **abundance**, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.*

- “Suffering”** - (pathēma.), physical and/or mental pain or distress
- This is our suffering for His sake & glory, it’s the fellowship of His suffering. Phil 3:10; 1 Pet 4:13
  - When we suffer- Christ suffers with us, because of our identification with Him.

**God’s principle of **abundance**** (of having more than enough)

- As our suffering abounds, God’s comfort super-abounds.
- Where the sin (nature) abounds, God’s grace **super-abounds**.  
(Rom 5:20)

Molloy



***Philippians 1:29 (NKJV)***

***29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.***

The Father prepares His **sufferers**, by means of their **sufferings**.

**“The gracious gift of suffering is as distinct and specific a gift as any other of God's gifts. But this gift transforms the blessed recipient more surely perhaps than all the others into resemblance to Himself, and is for this fellowship, the highest, greatest, noblest of them all.”**

***<sup>6</sup> 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;***

## **The Principle in Operation**

***Whether now we are being afflicted. Indic, Present, Passive***  
***or if we are comforted Indic, Present, Passive***

**We are being afflicted for the sake of**

**your comfort**

**your salvation (continual safety)**

**We are being comforted for the sake of**

**your comfort**

**Producing in you endurance**

**of suffering of the same suffering we suffer**

<sup>7</sup> *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.*

### **Hope for you is firm**

**Firm** “bebaios” secure-firm, of force, steadfast, sure, solid. Confident expectation

**Knowing that you are sharers**

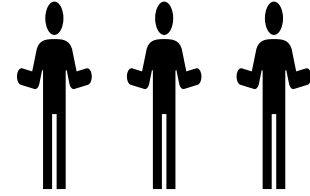
Of **sufferings**

Of **comfort**

GOD Comforts us



God's Comfort



In every affliction

in every affliction

“If you aspire to be a son of consolation.

If you would partake of the priestly gift of sympathy.

If you would pour something beyond commonplace consolation into a tempted heart.

If you would pass through the intercourse of daily life with the delicate tact that never inflicts pain.

You must be content to pay the price of a costly education-like Him, you must suffer.”

None But The Hungry Heart