

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;

The Principle in Operation

Whether now we are being afflicted.

Indic, Present, Passive

or if we are being comforted

Indic, Present, Passive

The sufferings of the Christ abounded towards us, he adds so through Him did our comfort.

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

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.

Our Hope for you is firm

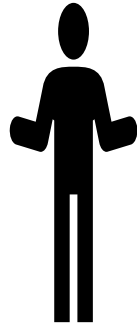
Firm “bebaios” **steadfast, secure**, of force, steadfast, sure, solid.
We have a Confident expectation.

Knowing that you are sharers

1. Of **sufferings** you will also be sharers
2. Of **comfort**

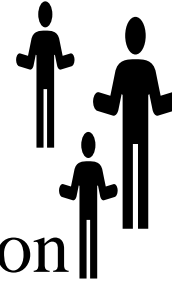
GOD Comforts us

In every affliction



God's Comfort

In every affliction



Affliction and suffering are the lot of all men,
the **privilege** of all **believers**.

Our sufferings bring forth need, and our need
brings forth His comfort and consolation.

Blessed need!

*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;***

burdened excessively, Paul says he has had the whole world come down on him.

beyond our strength, Beyond human endurance. If God doesn't intervene, we are lost.

despaired even of life; There was no way out.

McCalley

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;*

DELIVERANCE from Outside pressure

- Perhaps Paul referred to fighting wild beasts at Ephesus.
- The uproar at Ephesus instigated by Demetrius.
- A later outbreak of hostility against Paul at Ephesus.
- He had in mind various unspecified trials and plots against his life.
- A succession of persecutions in Asia, or an attempt to lynch Paul.
- Perhaps he referred to shipwreck followed by a night and a day in the sea.
- Anxiety over the state of the Corinthian church, a deadly sickness, or Paul's thorn in the flesh.

Constable

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me out of this body of death? I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 7: 24, 25

DELIVERANCE: Inward Pressure

- **Captivity** to a **power of evil within**, which he refers to as the **principle of SIN in his members**. **He is brought to hopeless despair.**
- Whatever moral disease or infirmity I may be subject to, there is adequate power in **Jesus Christ our Lord** to meet it.

*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**;*

- The "**sentence of death**" was the assurance Paul had that he was going to die as a result of this affliction. Constable
- He was already, as to his own mind, as good as dead.
- The greatest pressure of all is death.
- But Paul's trust was **not in himself** - the sentence of death was there - **but in God who raises the dead**.

*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;***

What is the purpose?

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

Same as Abraham's view when he was to sacrifice Isaac.

The God whom he trusted is the 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,*

“He says 'death' rather than 'peril of death,' because he had regarded himself as a dead man.” Plummer/Constable

"delivered . . . will deliver . . . will yet deliver"
(past, future, more distant future)

Christianity, in the true sense, is Christ glorified in those whom He has delivered. *“I am glorified in them.”*

Paul teaches us then that affliction does four things for us.

1. It makes us more **sympathetic**.
2. It gives us a **greater appreciation** for God's superabounding comfort and encouragement that He brings to us with the affliction.
3. It causes us to **trust** in God more, and
4. It gives us **greater confidence** in God's power and greater **hope** for the future. Constable

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.

synypourgounton. It consists of three words meaning “with,” “under,” and “work.”

Laborers bowed down under some heavy burden that they are working hard together to lift.

through your prayers

Isn't prayer an expression of trust?

Summary:

1. The **end** of affliction or stress is consolation comfort of **ourselves**.
2. The **end** of consolation is the consolation of **others**.
3. We **cannot** help others until we learn how to **obtain** help for ourselves. Romans 15:4
4. You can't get equipped in a **school**.
5. We must learn how the Word of God is **applied** to ourselves before we can **apply** it to someone else. Paul's qualification was **despairing** of death.