

2 Corinthians 1:3-11
God of All Comfort

God is the “God of all comfort” (v3) – we will seek comfort somewhere, and this passage helps direct us in why we should seek it in God.

Redemptive Suffering (vv8-9)

“the affliction we experienced... we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself”

“but that was to make us rely not on ourselves, but on God”

Merciful Comfort (vv3, 9-10)

“God, who raises the dead”

Hebrews 11:17-19 “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac... He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead...”

“on him we have set our hope”

Abundant Sharing (vv4-7, 11)

“for as we share abundantly...”

a) we comfort others b) we help with prayer

Questions for reflection:

1. The Heidelberg Catechism question #1 is “what is your only comfort in life and in death?” What is your answer to that question? Consider both the whole of your life, as well as where you seek comfort within an ordinary day.
2. Look up Heidelberg Catechism questions 1&2 (you can easily find the whole catechism free on-line) – is the grace of God enough to give you sufficient comfort? Can you agree with the catechism answers?
3. We don’t always know why we suffer, but when we suffer we can watch for ways to learn how to rely more on God. What thoughts do you have about learning to rely more on God and less on yourself – is it exciting? scary? irrelevant? puzzling?
4. If you had complete confidence that God raises the dead and no doubt of having a good after-life – would you live your life any differently? If so, how? How would it affect how you spend your time? Would you associate with the same people? Would you stay at your current job, or do it any differently? Would you take more risks?
5. We have a calling to share in the sufferings of others. What keeps you from doing that? Is there anyone you should reach out to so that you might bring them comfort, or pray for them?
6. Where do you turn for comfort, and what can you do to make God be that place instead?