

“The Heart of an Apostle”

Comforting Grace: Finding Value in Trials

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Paul’s _____ was the subject of the Corinthians’ primary challenge.

Our God is the Father of _____; the ESV renders the phrase Father of _____.

Nehemiah 9:17 - *They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But **you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.***

To see God’s mercy though, we must see our own _____ the way He does.

While mercy is a _____ characteristic, comfort must be an _____ one.

Isaiah 66:13 - *As one whom his mother **comforts**, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.*

The ‘paraclete’ will _____ disciples of Christ all things and _____ them of everything the Lord has said.

Psalms 119:50 - *This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. 51 The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law. 52 **When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD.***

Romans 15:4 - *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and **through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.***

Having a comprehensive _____ of God’s _____ is immensely important during times of struggle.

“Who is it that overcomes the world?” - “Only he who _____ that Jesus is the Son of God.” – 1 John 5:5

Don’t waste your _____!

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. - **1 Peter 4:12-14.***

...sufferings that are comforted provide something tangible for us in our walk with Christ. They give us _____, they help us _____.

*But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. – **2 Corinthians 1:9***

Trials should give cause to _____ our hearts, examine our lives. They should inspire us to _____ in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has _____ us before, and He will deliver us finally.