

Upcoming Events

Ladies Bible Class: Today at 4:00 p.m.

Fall 2019 meeting: Final Planning

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Hebrews class Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

The Father of Mercies and Comfort

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight

30 Willie Henderson

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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The Comfort of God

By Dan Jenkins

Who has not in their lifetime had those dark and trying periods when hope was almost gone? What congregation has not experienced anxiety as turmoil developed between brethren? Evidently, the church at Rome was dealing with all kinds of problems—there were false teachers seeking to Judaize the Gentiles by demanding that they must be circumcised to enter heaven. There was also strife between brothers where the stronger brothers had little compassion for those who were weaker.



Turmoil? Strong vs. weak? Little compassion? What to do?

How did God address such turmoil? When Paul gets to the fifteen chapter of Romans he utters this prayer. *“May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like minded toward one another...that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Romans 15:5-6). How did Paul see that turmoil coming to an end? He turned to God—the One who gives both comfort and patient endurance.

This is where true comfort is found. Paul described God as the God of all comfort, and then said that He *“...comforts us in all our troubles”* (2 Corinthians 1:5-6). Pay special attention to that three-

letter word in this passage. God is not just the One who sometimes comforts us in certain situations—He is the God of all comfort in all our trials.

How does God give us comfort? Look again at Romans chapter fifteen. It is in verse five where God is described as the God of comfort and patience. Look at verse four. *“For whatsoever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*

To whom do we turn for comfort? It is to God. To where do we turn? It is the Scriptures the God of comfort has given us. We have experienced this in those dark times when we walked through deep valleys, like the valley of the shadow of death. Our soul found relief at such times, and we sang the song given by David. *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me”* (Psalms 23:3). We sang the psalm and the words from the God of all comfort lifted our soul.

It is not just in those Old Testament passages where comfort is found. When those in Thessalonica were concerned about those brethren who had died, the God of comfort gave His word to them and then added, *“Wherefore comfort one another with these words”* (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

So, the next time clouds arise, and darkness prevails, let’s pick up our Bible. Read the comforting words from the God of all comfort. Meditate on what He says to us, and these words of comfort will bring hope in the midst of the deepest despair.

Comfort in Hardship

By Jon Mitchell

I believe there are two basic human needs that every individual has...forgiveness and comfort. I also believe that only God can completely meet both of those needs. We all sin (Romans 3:23), and so we all need God’s grace. We all suffer, and so we all need the peace that only God can provide (Philippians 4:6-7).

Every Christian needs encouragement at various times throughout this life. We suffer due to family problems, health concerns, natural disasters, spiritual weakness, emotional trials, problems at work, and even difficulties in the church. This is nothing new, for there were problems in the church even during biblical times. In the church of Christ at Corinth alone, we read of division, immorality, lawsuits between brethren, incorrect worship practices, abuse of miraculous gifts, lack of love for one another, and misunderstandings concerning the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the dead in the last day. Corinth, like most every congregation of God’s people, was filled with hurting people. This is why God inspired Paul to give them a lot of encouragement (2 Corinthians 1:3-5). They needed to grow stronger and remain stronger and more faithful, and encouragement would do that.

There are people around you who are hurting. We live in a broken, fallen world; thus, no life is free from hardship (Job 5:7). However, what we see in life is not determined by our own vantage point...but rather how we view life. Sometimes the hardships of life beat us down, and it is during those time that we must need to be encouraged (2 Corinthians 1:5; John 16:33; 1 Peter 4:12-13).

Why rejoice when fiery trials come upon us, Peter? Because with those hardships come opportunities to receive God’s comfort. Yes, I know that we think that we can do it all ourselves, that we have convinced ourselves that we are invincible, that we think we are self-reliant, that we think that if we obtain enough wealth and possessions we do not have to depend on God, that if we can educate ourselves enough we can determine our own morals, laws, and guidelines so we have no need of the Bible, that if we can be busy enough with programs, plans, and activities, we will have no need of the church...but God knows differently (John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 1:9).

Hardships have a way of bringing us to our knees and reminding us of our great need for God’s comfort (Hebrews 12:7-11). So instead of running away from God during the hard times, let’s run TO him (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7).