

Coming Back from Affliction
2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Pew Bible p. 964
August 7, 2022

I. The God of All Comfort (V. 1-4)

- A. Coming back from anything starts with receiving grace from God, not acceptance from man.
- B. Coming back from hurt starts with receiving the simple comfort of the presence of God once again.

II. The Comfort of Suffering (V. 5-7)

- A. The comfort of Christ is ours when we hurt like He did.
- B. The comfort of Christ is what gives hope to all Christians, no matter how dark their past.

III. The Comfort of Service (V. 8-11)

- A. The comfort of Christ comes from depending on Him alone during intense times of affliction.
- B. The comfort of Christ helps us come back to being useful servants again.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11.
2. What is the difference between receiving grace and peace from God, which is what the Corinthians had in verse 2, and receiving acceptance from people, which is what most people want? What is the danger of receiving the latter instead of the former?
3. What are some things you remember about the Corinthian church from 1 Corinthians? What are some characteristics of these Christians that would make receiving comfort from God a challenge? Why do you think they were receiving it anyway?
4. What would it look like for you to share in Christ's sufferings as a 21st century Christian? How could that lead to comfort from Christ for you?
5. Have you ever done something so bad you wondered how you could ever come back from it? Have you ever witnessed the situation of another and wondered how they could ever come back from it? What do you think was the source of Paul's unshaken hope for the Corinthian Christians and how can that give us hope for flawed Christians today?
6. Have you or someone you know ever gone from serving Christ faithfully to falling out of service due to a shortcoming, but then eventually coming back into ministry? How did God bring you or them back? What does God's ability to bring back failed Christians say about His character?
7. Pray for our church, that we would be both convicted by our sin and committed to Christ-centered restoration. Consider attending the church prayer meeting every Sunday at 7 pm. Register at the church website at www.apollobaptist.org.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Leviticus 26 – Numbers 1

August Memory Verses: Numbers 14:17-19

Psalm 103:8-13

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

If you have not done so already, register from the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. Register with your name and email address. This registration will last through 8/7/2022. Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting. (NOTE: You will need to re-register this week for the next quarter's Zoom Meetings.)

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- PRAYING for people in our church who need help coming back from past sins.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain, Comfort J. in Nigeria, Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia, Sylvia M. at ASU West, Arizona, Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand, and Jules S. in Thailand
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an on-line setting, or a home school setting our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
David T. & family (wife), Louise R. (husband), Ed G. & family (mother), family of Phyllis W., Paul W. & family (aunt), Anne W.-B. & family (husband), family of Joan S., and Sherri O. (uncle)
- Those struggling with on-going health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues), Mary R. (dialysis needed until kidney transplant), Debbie B. (health issues), Leon V. (chemo), Twila D. (stroke), Wayne D. (declining health), Ken & Darlene R. (health issues), John E. (eyelid cancer,) Debbie P. (bronchitis/surgery recovery), Ann C.-W. (ear pain & hearing issues)
- Others that you are aware of