

The ministry of consolation

2 Cor. 1:1-11

Objective:

Understand the purpose why God permits tribulation in the life of His people.

Verse to memorize:

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,” (2 Cor. 1:3)

Introduction:

Throughout all the Scripture, we can note that our God and Father is committed and occupied in providing consolation to His people, who are fundamentally hurting for their condition of deep spiritual need. (Mt. 5:3-4).

Jesus is the answer of consolation for God’s people who are afflicted by sin and its bitter consequences. (Luke 2:25-32)

The wonderful Scripture, the communion with the church and the Holy Spirit, are the provision of God for His people that have the function to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, through the Gospel (Rom. 15:4-5, Jn. 14:26). So that when we prophesy, we edify and exhort His people to live the fullness of the consolation of God. (1 Cor. 14:3, 2 Thes. 2:16-17)

Verse 1

Who was Paul an apostle of? _____

By the will whom? _____

To whom was this letter addressed to? _____

Verse 2

Observe the beautiful relationship that grace has with God our Father and the peace with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 3

Let’s note that Paul after his salutation does not forget to exalt and bless God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Which are the beautiful attributes of God our Father that are emphasized here?

Verse 4

1) The promise of comfort

What is it that God provides in ALL of our tribulations? _____

2) The purpose of comfort

For what? _____

By what means? _____

Comfort doesn’t end in me; it equips me to give by grace that which by grace I have received!!! It converts me into an instrument of consolation.

We shouldn’t look for consolation only for us, but also look for consolation to comfort others. When through the Holy Spirit we have this perspective, we receive consolation for comforting.

Those who haven’t suffered can only talk about concepts of consolation, but they could never transmit consolation nor can they have compassion for others. For this reason, God permits tribulation on His people. Therefore, no one can give what he does not have if he hasn’t had the need to be comforted. So then, how can you have consolation for others?

Verses 5

3) The parameters of consolation

What type of afflictions is he talking about?

By whom does our consolation also abound in us?

Verses 6-7

4) The kinship in consolation

What is then the purpose of our affliction for the cause of Christ?

What is the purpose of the consolation provided by God in our lives?

How does this consolation operate?

To whom is the consolation addressed to?

Verses 8-9

5) The power of consolation

What was it that Paul didn't want for them to ignore?

To what degree did that tribulation get to?

What did they have in themselves?

For what? _____

Verse 10

6) The perpetuity of His consolation

What is the word that shows us the perpetuity of His consolation? _____

Verse 11

7) The of participation in consolation

In what manner can we all participate in this beautiful, powerful and permanent ministry of consolation? _____

For what? _____