

Bible Study Wednesday February 28

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, written about AD 57.

God is inherently blessed, and delights to share His blessedness with His people. We bless God when we speak well of God as the source of all blessing.

There are three titles of God in v. 3.

1. **“The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”.**

He is the one true and living God.

He has an eternal Son who has the same nature, honour and glory.

He made a covenant with His Son, to redeem and so bless His people.

There is no blessing for sinners except by coming to the Father through the Son.

In Christ, He is not a wrathful God of offended justice, but of kindness, goodness and love.

The Father sent the Son to redeem.

Any relationship with God must be through Christ.

2. **“The Father of Mercies”.**

Pity/compassion is an emotion by which God is distinguished. Luke 1:78.

Psalm 86:5 applies in particular to the misery resulting from the Fall.

Mercies are abundant in Christ to cover all our need. New every morning.

There is no merit in sinners which can be rewarded, but all our benefits spring from Christ.

There are common mercies, but Christ is the source of special favours to His people such as peace and love.

These mercies are great and God delights to express them in many ways.

3. **“The God of all Comfort”.**

He is pleased to come to us and meet our need.

Comforter: Gk. parakletos – one called to our side to help us.

He is the source of our relief as He gives courage, strength and peace.

Romans 15:5 Consolation after perplexity and grief.

Isaiah 55:12 Every kind of comfort is available. He will never fail us. He gives comfort adequate for our every need. We have peace as we rest in His loving arms.

There are two comforters in v.4.

1. **The Divine Comforter.**

God had not failed Paul in his many and severe tribulations. Such is our state in this world.

John 16:33. The road to Heaven is rough. Man is born to tribulation as the sparks fly upward.

Some examples:

The power of sin within us.

The weakness of our grace.

Satan seeking to sift us.

Yielding to temptation leads to backsliding and spiritual failure, sense of desertion and despair, unless God comforts us.

The Father, the Son of consolation and the Spirit of comfort act together for us. Isaiah 40:1

God makes us know that He is a present help near to us. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who applies His word to us.

So we are helped to trust God, to leave everything with Him by prayer, and so relieve our burdens.

2. Human Comforters

God teaches us how to comfort others. Sustain them by passing on the comfort we have received. Christ has set us an example Isaiah 61:2, so did Barnabas Acts 4:36.

Share what we have in common, what God has done for us. Continue His ministry of compassion. This is our duty 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11. Be the opposite of Job's "comforters" Job16:2.

Carefully consider the condition and needs of others. Sympathise with them, express Christian love, listen and assist with a word fitly spoken. Do not preach at them, but give them a verse of scripture, pray with and for them.

Remind them that God has not changed: He still prepares goodness for them that fear Him, and is with us in trouble. He never has failed, and never will fail any believer. Job 22:29.

If appropriate, remind them of Heaven: peace in the harbour, rest from the raging sea. Encourage them to consider the things that are not seen, the eternal realities which last for ever.

So cultivate the art of helping others.