
Sermon Notes

June 5, 2022

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The God of All Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3-10

The Comforter

- ❖ On the evening before His crucifixion, Jesus promises that He and His Father will send the Holy Spirit
 - John 14:6, 26; 15:26
 - One who will come alongside to provide protection, help, security and comfort
- ❖ One of the Holy Spirit's roles is to bring consolation and comfort into our lives

Crisis

- ❖ The unwelcome and unexpected
 - reversal of fortune
 - loss
 - national catastrophe
- ❖ No one is immune from crises

- ❖ Paul's life seems to move from one crisis to another
 - cold, nakedness, beatings, imprisonment, criminal, assault, shipwreck, betrayal, desolation, desertion
 - 2 Corinthians 4:11 — his was a life of “perpetual death”
- ❖ Paul's life of perpetual death
 - v. 9 we felt that we had received the sentence of death
 - v. 8 we despaired of life itself
 - v. 8 we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength
 - v. 5 we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings

Comfort

- ❖ Paul opens his heart and bares his soul so we will see not a great man **but a great God**
 - Paul wants us to know that God comforts us in **ALL** our affliction (v. 4)
 - thank God for the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit, the One who is called alongside us
- ❖ Paul uses some form of the word **comfort** 10 times in this passage... 1/3 of its 31 usage's in the entire NT!
- ❖ Why does God allow crises to invade the lives of His people?
 - v. 9, to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead

- to test the validity of our faith
- to show us what we truly love
- to teach us obedience
- to strengthen us for greater usefulness
- to make us better able to comfort others with the same comfort which we ourselves have received from God
- ❖ How do we share the comfort we have received from the Holy Spirit with others?
 - come alongside them and provide a reassuring voice that says “I’m here”
 - example, attitude, gracious and gentle words of comfort
 - prayer
- ❖ The value of “down” time
 - the key to effectiveness in Paul’s ministry
 - the key to effectiveness in our own ministry

The Importance of Praise

- ❖ What Paul unfolds here is prefaced with praise
 - v 3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort*
 - the comfort God gives us is designed to bring Him much praise, worship, honor, and glory (Psalm 34:1, Job 1:21)

- ❖ God’s greatest comfort to us is the gift of His Son for the forgiveness of our sin
 - Hebrews 4:15, Isaiah 63:9
 - no crown of comfort without the cross of suffering

Personal Application

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10a and consider the desperate nature of Paul’s circumstances. (The word translated “despaired” in v. 8 literally means “no passage” or “no way out”.) Think of a time when you faced what seemed like a hopeless situation. How did God minister comfort to you at that time? What Scriptures and/or people did the Lord use to bring you help and the assurance of His presence with you?
2. As you recall ways in which God has comforted you in the past, review some ways you have passed that comfort on to others who have found themselves in similar situations. How has the Holy Spirit used you as His tool to bring peace, hope and comfort to others?
3. Spend time praising and thanking God that He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. Think of ways in which you can share the testimony of God’s comforting ministry in your life with others.