

## **“God Comforts Us That We Might Be Comforters”**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Sunday Evening, December 1, 2019

**Introduction:** The apostle Paul had a pastor’s heart and a missionary’s zeal. That is a great combination. Read the book of Acts and you will see his missionary zeal. Read his epistles and you will see his pastor’s heart. Our Scripture text is an example of Paul’s pastor’s heart.

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

### **Brief Background:**

- On Paul’s second missionary journey, he spent 18 months in Corinth (Acts 18:1-18).
- When Paul left Corinth, he traveled to Ephesus (Acts 19).
- Second Corinthians is one of the letters that Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in response to things that were going on in the church.
- One of the themes of this letter is that God is a merciful comforter (v.3).

### **“The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort” (V.3).**

- Circle the word “comfort” in verses 3 and 4. (It is used 5 times in these two verses)
- Paul used the word 109 times in his New Testament writings.
- The word translated “comfort” is the Greek word *parakaleo* which conveys the idea of comfort, compassion, consoling words, encourage.
- It is related to the Greek word *paraclete* which means “one to comes alongside to help.” which is another name for the Holy Spirit.
- The word translated “tribulation” is the Greek word *thlipsis* which pictures things that are a crushing pressure beyond what is normal.

**T.S.** Now with this brief background, let me mention three ways that you can comfort people going through their “tribulations.”

1. You can comfort people with your personal testimony.

2. You can comfort people with a letter, text, card, or phone call.
  
3. You can comfort people in the way you handle your own tribulation.