

I. Essentials for Seasons of Suffering (3-4)

- A. Paul’s conviction in suffering (3a) - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...” **God is good...period.**
- B. Paul’s companion in suffering (3b-4a) - “...the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction...”
- C. Paul’s consecration through suffering (4b) - “...so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” **Paul viewed his suffering as a means by which to help others**

II. Embracing the Benefits from Suffering (5-7)

- A. Deeper fellowship with Christ (5) - “For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.”
- B. Beautiful example of overcoming (6) - “If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.”
- C. Demonstrated hope to others (7) - “Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.”

Having observed Paul suffering, sustained & comforted they learned to do the same

III. Getting Honest About the Experience of Suffering (8-11)

- A. It hits your emotions (8) - “For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.”
- B. It kills your self-reliance (9) - “Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.” **Paul forced what he felt to kneel before what he believed.**
- C. It solidifies your trust in God (10) - “He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will deliver us again.”