

Big Text: Main Point

Green- Definitions

Yellow- Scripture

Purple- Quotes

V3-4a: The Merciful and Comforting God

- **Blessed**- Vines Defines It as “to praise, to celebrate with praises, that which is addressed to God, acknowledging His goodness
- **1 Peter 1:3** 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- **Ephesians 1:3** 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- **Comfort**- is the Word Paraklesis which means to come alongside of, to comfort, console, to exhort and also has the idea to Strengthen.
- **Tribulations**- Vines Defines “to suffer affliction, to be troubled,” has reference to sufferings due to the pressure of circumstances... anything which burdens the spirit
- **Our Trials can never exceed the Ability of God to Comfort. --Paul Apple**
- **Hebrews 4:14-16**: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- **To Prove Our Faith :**
 - **Fiery Trials Make Golden Christians**- Spurgeon
 - **1 Peter 1:6-7** 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ
- **To Make Us More Into The Image Of Jesus**
 - **Romans 8:28-29** 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For

whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren

- **To Make Us Comforters**

- **John Henry Jowett wrote:** "God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters."

V4b: The Merciful and Comforting Church

- **1 Corinthians 12:26-27** 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually
- **We are best equipped to minister to those we once were**