

The Gift

◆◆◆ OF ◆◆◆
COMPASSION

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Compassion Released 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Let's Review...

- Latin root of Compassion: "suffer with" or "suffer together"
- Compassion of the Incarnation (Christmas) enables the greatest act of Compassion...
The Crucifixion and Resurrection (Easter)

God's Plan: Cycle of Compassion

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV) – *"³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."*

- God is the originator of Compassion
- Our troubles provide the opportunity to receive His Compassion
- "So that" - for the purpose of God's comfort to us overflowing to others

The Question of Suffering ... To Start with God

Proverbs 9:10 – *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

- Start with God: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; Proverbs 1:7 & Proverbs 9:10

The Immeasurable Compassion of God Matthew 23:37-38

Matt 23:37-38 – *"³⁷ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!"*

- Experiences rejection; responds with concerns
- Divine foreknowledge adds to his heartbreak and compassion

The Payoff of Pain: Comfort to Share.

God's invitation: To become a vessel of His Compassion to your world, for 2021 and beyond.

DIGGING DEEPER 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1 Preparation: If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him. *"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."*

2 Read the Text: Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 & Romans 8:28 a few times until you have a clear understanding.

3 Contemplate + Journal

Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, as I have experienced troubles in my life, how have I experienced your compassion and comfort?"
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, how have you used seasons of trouble and suffering to grow me and strengthen my walk with you?"
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

4 Praise + Worship: Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time. **Song Recommendation:** *"You Hold It All Together"* by **Maverick City**

5 Closing Prayer: Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart.

6 Blessing: *"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."* **Ephesians 3:19**

Your Response Today: Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting **"Card"** to **970-00**

Discover More: Learn about ways you can connect to life at Calvary by subscribing to weekly pastoral updates, growing in community through a LifeGroup, finding resources to give or receive care and help through this season, and discovering ways you can give to help make a difference locally and globally at **CalvaryLife.org**

