



## Today's Message

Date: September 23, 2018  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: *The God of All Comfort*

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, 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. <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

Introduction: Paul typically began his letters with an expression of thanksgiving for the church to which it was written. He does not follow that pattern here—surely a hint that not all is well between the apostle and the church at Corinth. Instead, he offers a benediction (an expression of praise or blessedness) toward God for his mercy and comfort in affliction. He tells us that God comforts us so that we can, in turn, comfort others. We view this passage fondly, but often as nothing more than a description of how we need to help each other survive the difficulties of life. However, set in the context of this letter, these beloved verses unveil God's sovereign plan to accomplish the advance of the glorious gospel of Christ.

**Today's take-home truth: God is worthy of our praise because he sovereignly designs both suffering and comfort for the advance of his glorious gospel.**

**I. God is worthy of our praise . . . 3**

- A. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. He is the Father of mercies.
- C. He is the God of all comfort.

**II. because he sovereignly designs both suffering and comfort . . . 4-6**

- A. God's activity: He comforts in affliction. 4a
- B. God's purpose: He equips those afflicted and comforted to serve others. 4b
- C. God's plan:
  - 1. His people suffer for Christ and find comfort in Christ. 5
  - 2. His people, thus comforted, help others find comfort and salvation in Christ. 6

**III. for the advance of his glorious gospel. 7**

- A. The gospel advances as God's people embrace weakness . . .
- B. for the sake of Christ.