



# THE MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 30, 2022

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### **Congregational Meeting**

November 13

#### **Our Next Gospel Meeting**

Next year

#### **Weekly Bible Studies**

Tuesday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Saturday, 10, Panera

(Georgetown)

#### **Times of Service**

##### **Sunday**

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

##### **Wednesday**

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

#### **First Friday of Month**

##### **Singing**

November 4, 7:30

#### **Address and Contact**

University Heights Church of Christ

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington, KY 40508

(859) 255-6257

[www.uheightschurch.com](http://www.uheightschurch.com)

### SUFFERING AND COMFORT

Following his introductory remarks, Paul begins his second letter to the Christians at Corinth by uniting two seemingly disparate human experiences. Those two experiences are suffering and comfort. Without such a divinely inspired revelation, we might never put the two experiences together. After all, where is the comfort in suffering? Suffering, by its very nature, repels comfort. For comfort to prevail, suffering must cease. Yet, for the Christian, there is a close connection between them. Let us explore this connection in the passage 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Open your Bibles and study the passage as you follow the remainder of this article.

Paul's sufferings after becoming a Christian are well known. It would be hard to imagine anyone suffering more. In verse 8 of the text Paul mentions being afflicted in Asia, so heavily burdened that he despaired of life itself. In verse 9 he refers to his experience as the sentence of death, and in verse 10 he calls it a deadly peril. Yet, there is not even one mention of suffering that is without a corresponding mention of comfort. How could that be?

In verse 5 Paul shows that he considered his sufferings to be occasions of sharing in Christ's sufferings. Such an attitude sees opportunity in suffering, that is, opportunity to be more like Jesus even to the point of suffering as He did. In verse 9 Paul sees the hand of God in his suffering; he sees a purpose for it, that is, the opportunity to rely upon God and not upon himself. In verse 10 Paul sees the opportunity to express his confidence that God will deliver him from his suffering and bring him comfort. Paul began this treatise on suffering and comfort by stating that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. All these thoughts expressed by Paul brought him comfort, even as the suffering continued.

Paul was not the only Christian who suffered. There was a significant amount of suffering being experienced by the Corinthian brethren. In the text Paul connects his suffering and comfort with that of the Corinthians. In his suffering and comfort Paul saw opportunity

## Members Needing Our Prayers

Joyce Bolton, Julie Patton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Richard and Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

## Others Needing Prayer

Dalton Denny, Charles Bishop, Brian Mason, Ernestine Byers, Glen Perkins, Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon

## To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

to benefit others. He says in verse 4 that God comforted him so that he would be able to comfort “*those who are in any affliction.*” In verse 6 he says, “*If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.*” If Paul learned to rely upon God; if Paul was able to develop a proper attitude towards suffering; if Paul found prayer to God regarding his sufferings to bring him comfort; if Paul could unashamedly seek the prayers of other Christians on his behalf, then his benefit to other suffering Christians cannot be measured.

Some of Paul’s suffering was even caused by the church at Corinth. The many, many problems experienced by them and the harshness with which Paul had to admonish them distressed him. This is evident from 2 Corinthians 2:4, “*For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.*” It is that kind of brotherly love that prepares the way for there to be mutual suffering and comfort as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Surely there is a lesson in the passage for us. John Thompson

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Evangelist</b>
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

