

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 3, 2009**

**“Down But Not Out”
2 Corinthians 1:4b-7
Dale Whitehead**

Where should we look for comfort?

We should look to God for comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Can we, if we go to God for comfort, be assured that we will find it no matter how many or difficult our trials?

No matter how many or how difficult our trials, if we would look to God for comfort we will always find it (2 Corinthians 1:4a; 8-11).

Once God has provided us with comfort what are we to do with it?

When God has provided us with His comfort, we have the privilege as well as the responsibility to channel that comfort to others (2 Corinthians 1:4).

The comfort that we have received from God might come to us in one way and go out from us in a different way.

No matter how great the sufferings a Christian is called upon to endure, they are matched, and more than matched, by the comfort which God bestows (2 Corinthians 1:5).

Paul saw His life as an extension of Christ’s life, therefore all the sufferings he endured as an extension of Christ’s life were seen by him “as the sufferings of Christ.”

Paul and Timothy understood that both their afflictions as well as their comfort were a stewardship that had been given them for the comfort of the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 1:6).

Paul saw their afflictions as a source of comfort and salvation because apart from their willingness to suffer those afflictions in bringing the gospel to the Corinthians, the Corinthians would have experienced neither.

Paul could say that the Corinthians were sharers of his sufferings as well as sharers of his comfort based on his firmly grounded hope that they were joined to him in Christ.

May God give us the grace to channel the comfort that God has supplied to us, so that others might be comforted, that we might be strengthened, and that God might be glorified.

Valley Bible Church
3347 West Avenue J
Lancaster, California 93536
www.valleybible.net