

Be Encouraged

“Down But Not Out!”

Reading: [Colossians 2:1-3](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 1:3-11](#)

Introduction:

A. Discouragement is no respecter of persons.

1. Rich or poor, young or old, wise or foolish.
2. Even Paul: [v. 8](#)—We were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life."

B. 3 reminders of how we can find encouragement from God!

#1 First Remember who God IS to you.

A. Remember that He is God. [v. 3](#)

1. No matter what destruction, terrible event, or tragedy, He is God!
2. [Romans 8:28](#)--And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

B. Remember that He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. It is because of Jesus that we can call God our Father.
2. It is because He is our Father that we have eternal life.

C. Remember that He is the Father of Mercies

1. Just as Satan is the father of murder and of lies
2. In His mercy God gives us what we do not deserve and in His mercy He does not give us what we do deserve.

D. Remember that He is the God of all Comfort

1. [1 Thessalonians 4:18](#)--Therefore comfort one another with THESE words (death)
2. Jesus said in [Matthew 11:28](#)--Come to me all of you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

#2 Secondly, Remember what God DOES for you.

A. Remember that He comforts us IN our problems [v. 4](#)

1. He may not take us out of tribulation, but help us through it.
2. Why? We may be able to comfort others who are in trouble.

B. Remember that He Strengthens us THROUGH our problems

1. [2 Corinthians 12:10](#) For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
2. Jim Massey, "You learn through your mistakes, the more mistakes, smarter you become."

C. Remember that He disciplines us WITH our problems.

1. [Hebrews 12:6](#) For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
2. Why do problems come? Me. Others. Natural disasters. Satan. **Don't blame God.**

#3 Remember what God does THROUGH you.

A. Remember that He helps us comfort others [v. 4-6](#)

1. [John 11:35](#)--Jesus wept. why?
 - a. They thought because he loved Lazarus.
 - b. Maybe because he cared for them.
2. Don't become "Cisterns instead of channels."
 - a. One Family--"nobody cares for me."
 - b. One man from 7 south at McLaren Hospital (called at 3 am to meet him) I told him, "Stop thinking about yourself and do something for someone else."
3. [Romans 12:15](#) Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (RSV)

B. Remember that He helps us save others [v. 11](#)

1. Why will many give thanks for Paul? He brought them the message.
2. Certainly, we must be thankful to God for Jesus Christ, but what about those who brought us to Him?
3. If you are a Christian, you can tell others how you did it.
 - a. God will help
 - b. I will help
 - c. We will help one another bring others to Christ.

Conclusion:

A. Maybe you have been down, but you don't have to be out.

1. Many leave Jesus because someone offended them, was it Jesus?
2. Many have left God because some problem occurred in their lives, was God to blame?
3. Your suffering, problem, or tragedy may be a hint from God that you need to trust Him.

B. Maybe you are not down, but you are still out of Christ . . .

Get into Christ: [Romans 6:3-5](#)