



Newsletter

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The God of all Comfort



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort ..." (II Corinthians 1:3). Indeed amid the trials and tribulations of life it is good to know that we have a compassionate and consoling God.

There are several within our church fellowship who are currently grieving the loss of a loved one. The 49 year old son-in-law of Gordon and Joyce Willits died in a motorcycle accident on May 30th. His funeral was last Monday. Gaylene Goodroad's brother, Marvin, recently passed away at the age of 52. His funeral was last Thursday in North Dakota. Today (June 2nd) is the funeral for B. J. Clark, the nephew of Tom & Cindy Clark and Jim & Robin Gore. He was only 33. Among these, there are many of their extended families who are connected with our church. How then should we suffer?

Amid the anguish of pain and suffering let me suggest the following responses to God:

1. **Trust:** Many of us are familiar with Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight." Another verse to consider is Psalm 23:4. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

2. **Patience:** Another passage we know well is Isaiah 40:31. "Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up *with wings like eagles*, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary." Along with this consider Psalm 27:14. "Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord."

3. **Worship:** We read of Job's ten children that their house "fell on the young people and they died." (Job 1:20). The very next verse says, "Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshipped." Consider also II Samuel 12:20, "So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the Lord and worshipped." All of this after just being informed that his infant son had died.

None of us experience the same kinds of pain or loss, but all of us have the same God. During times of distress might we remember some very familiar passages of Scripture and then act accordingly.

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle