

Sermon Outline

MORE PAIN, GREATER COMFORT | Nick O'Neil

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

1. The search for a pPain-free life

2. Paul and the Corinthians – a painful relationship (1:1-2)

For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you. (2 Cor. 2:4)

We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also. (2 Cor. 6:11–13)

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. (2 Cor. 7:8–9)

3. Delight in God, Merciful Comforter (1:3)
 - a. The character of God

 - b. God the Father, Christ's Comfort

4. Sharing together in distress and comfort (1:4-7)
 - a. Distress and comfort in Christ

 - b. Distress and comfort in Christian community

 - c. The goodness of God in distress

5. Learning with Paul (1:8-11)
 - a. Distress is best shared (1:8)
 - b. Hardship is genuinely hard – no shortcuts (1:8-9)
 - c. Death gives hope in resurrection (1:9-10)
 - d. Pray-ers share in joy of deliverance (1:11)

6. More pain, greater comfort