**7**

**Love That Comforts**

***2 Corinthians 1:1-11***

We are tempted to think how wonderful life would be if there were no pain. However, Brand and Yancey point out in their book *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* how important pain is, as are the nerve cells that transmit pain. If our skin is damaged and these nerve endings are not functioning, we are in grave danger of destroying the rest of our body. We would not have warning of danger that pain provides for us

1. What helps when you feel loss, sadness or hurt?

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2.Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. How does Paul’s greeting

in verses 1-2 set the tone for what follows.

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***33 Love***

3. How is God described in this passage (vv.3-4)?

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4.How do you respond to this description of our heavenly Father?

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5. Paul speaks about God’s comfort from his own experience. Describe the suffering that he and his colleagues experienced (vv. 8-9).

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6.What did God do for them (v.10)?

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7. Based on God’s faithfulness to them, they set their hope on him. How has God comforted or delivered you in suffering?

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How does this affect your sense of hope in God?

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8. How did Paul’s sufferings help his fellow believers. (vv.5-7)?

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9.How have you been able to comfort others because of receiving God’s comfort?

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***Love 35***

10. How did the Corinthians help Paul (v.11)?

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11. What is Paul’s attitude toward his suffering throughout this passage?

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12. How does this mutuality of love between Paul and the Corinthians show that we are strengthened in Christ even as we seek to help others?

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*Praise God that he is the God of all comfort. Thank him for his grace and peace. Ask him to make that grace and peace real to you in your pain. Praise God that suffering is not meaningless in the life of a Christian. Talk to God about Paul’s attitude toward his suffering and ask him to make your attitude like his.*