

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT



2 Corinthians 1:3-11

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

¹ “Man *who is* born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.
² He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue. — Job 14:1–2 (NKJV)



Tragedy



Accidents



Sickness

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT



- ▶ **We are sojourners, pilgrims through a world full of hardship, trouble & pain—** *(the troubles & occasional pain of this life should prompt us to seek something better)* Heb 11:13-16; 1 Pet 2:11
- ▶ **REALITY helps us realize EVERYTHING in this world is temporary** *(including its troubles & pain)* Eccl. 7:2; 1 Jn 2:15-17; 2 Cor 4:8-9,16-18

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT



- ▶ **All face trials, hardships, sufferings & pain —**
Matthew 5:45
- ▶ **Many seek comfort in all the wrong places** (*alcohol & drugs / wealth, power, control / anger, bitterness / callousness / rebellion / false religion*)
- ▶ **Let us to turn to GOD and each other** (2 Cor 1:3; 1 Thes 4:18; Heb 10:24,25)

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

2 Corinthians 1:1–11 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

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2 Corinthians 1:1–11 (NKJV)

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. ⁶ Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation. ⁷ And our hope for you *is* steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also *you will partake* of the consolation.

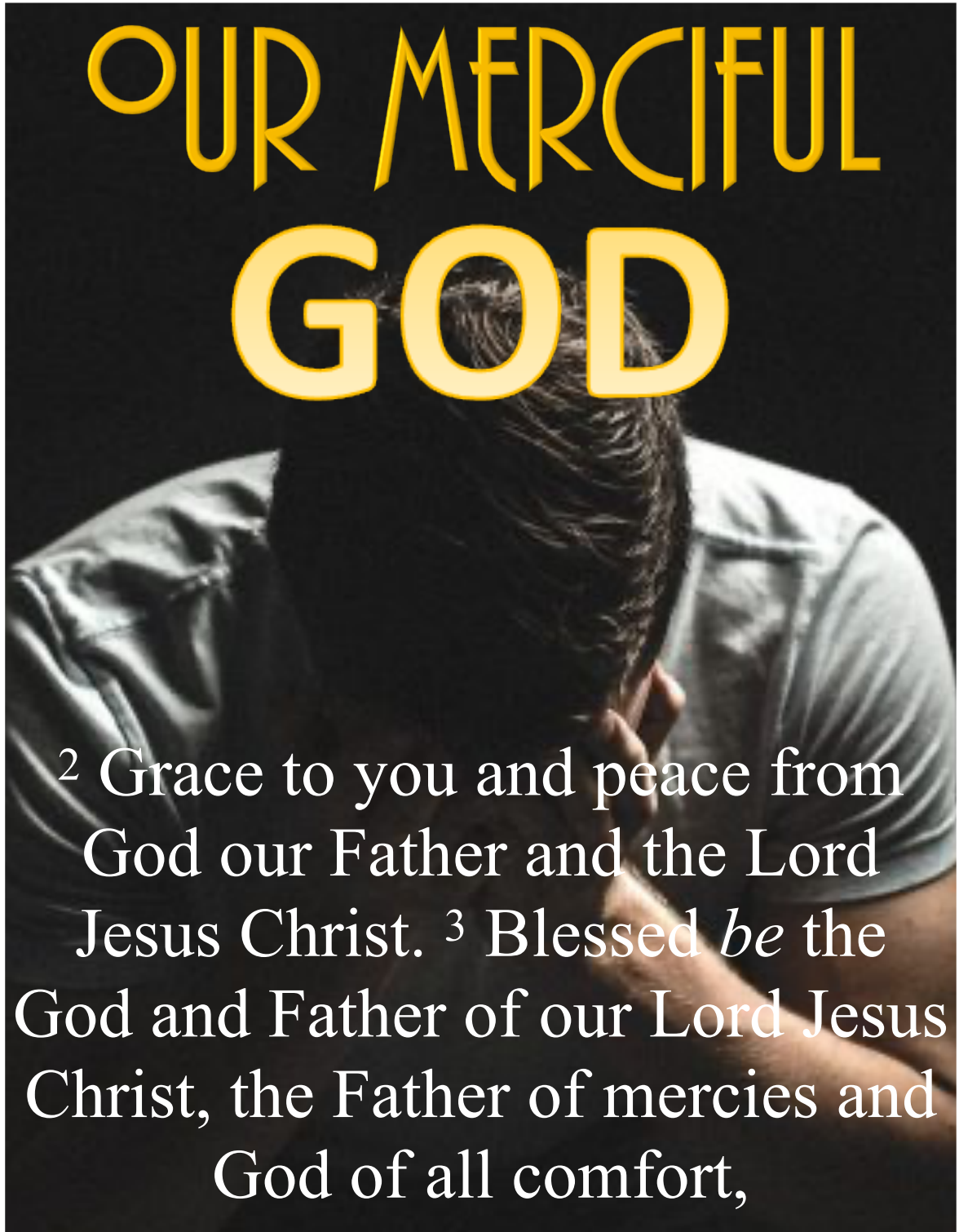
THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

2 Corinthians 1:1–11 (NKJV)

⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*, ¹¹ you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift *granted* to us through many.

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

OUR MERCIFUL GOD



² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

- ▶ God is the **ONLY** true source of mercy & comfort (1:3; Ps. 86:17; 23; 103:13)
- ▶ The term **comfort** means more than “*soothing sympathy*”— it bestows courage, enabling us to cope with our pain & sufferings, that we may persevere. (Heb 12:12)

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OUR MERCIFUL GOD



² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

James 1:17–20 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

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OUR MERCIFUL GOD



² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

James 1:17–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

OUR MERCIFUL GOD



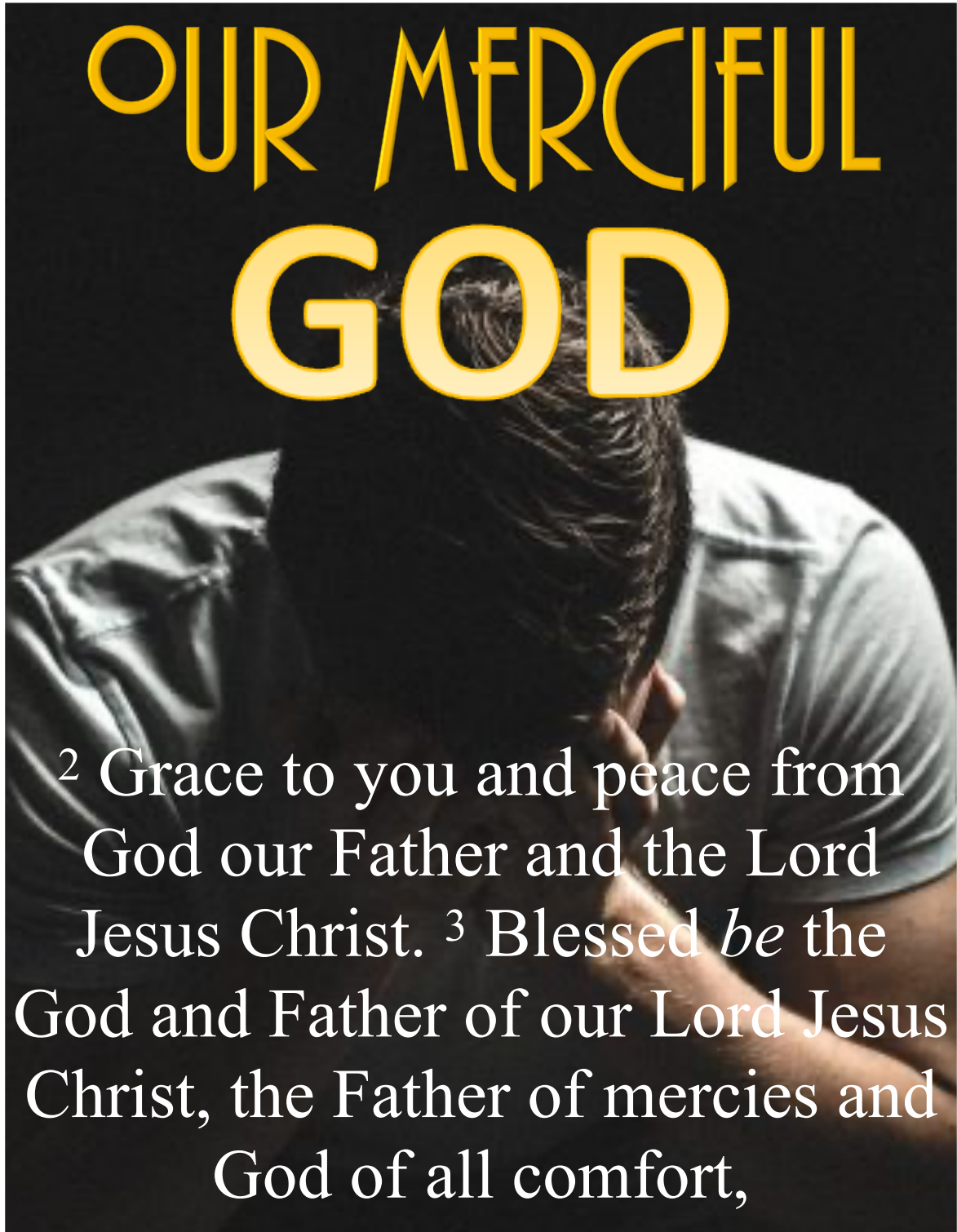
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

1 Peter 5:6-10 (NKJV)

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

OUR MERCIFUL GOD

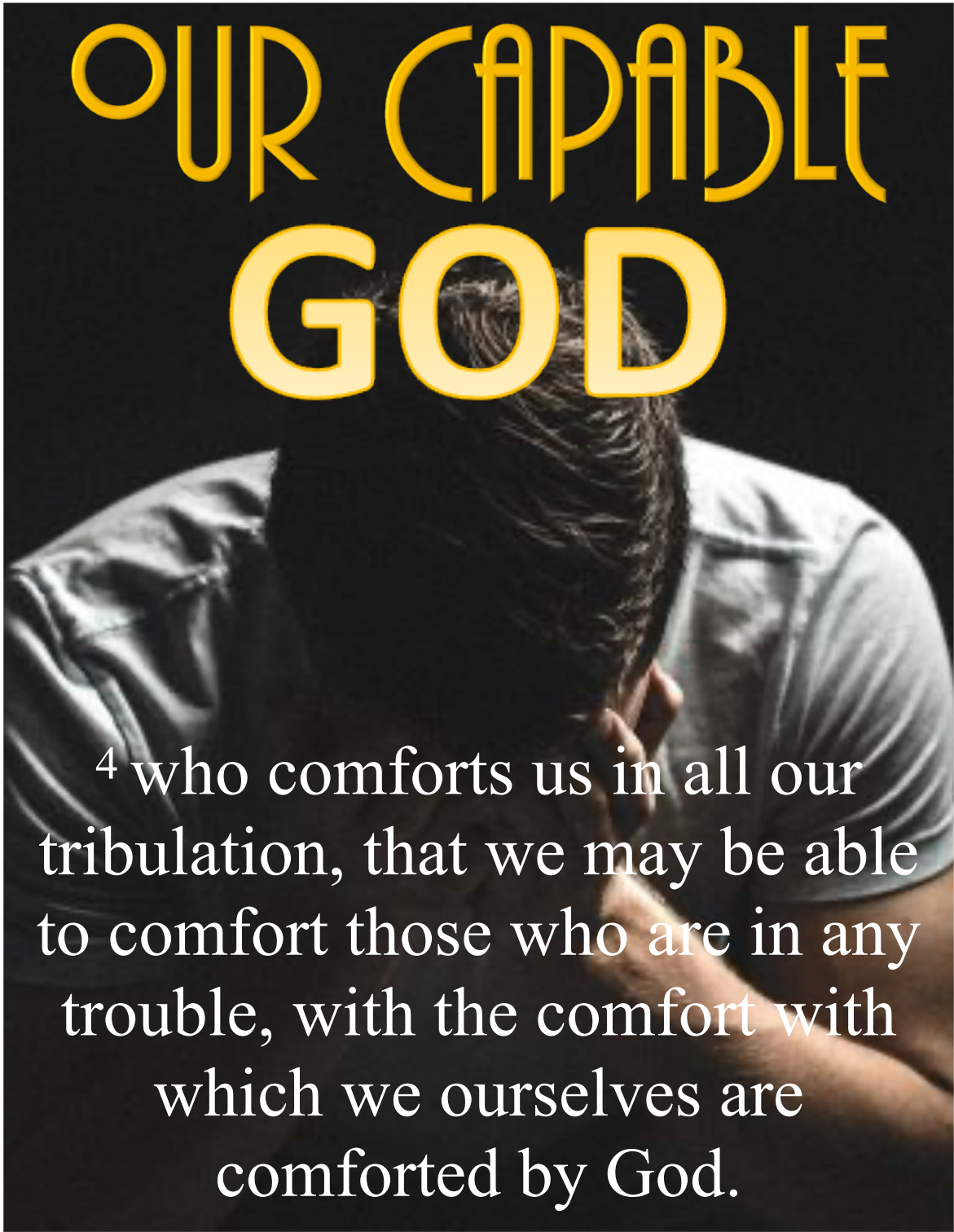


² Grace to you and peace from
God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of mercies and
God of all comfort,

- ▶ **Able** (Gen 4; Heb. 11:4)
- ▶ **Job** (Job 1:20-22; 2:10;
13:15; James 5:11)
- ▶ **Joseph** (Gen 37:23-36;
39:1-41:14)
- ▶ **Paul** (2 Cor. 11:22-30;
12:7-10)
- ▶ **Jesus!** (Phili 2:5-9)

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OUR CAPABLE GOD

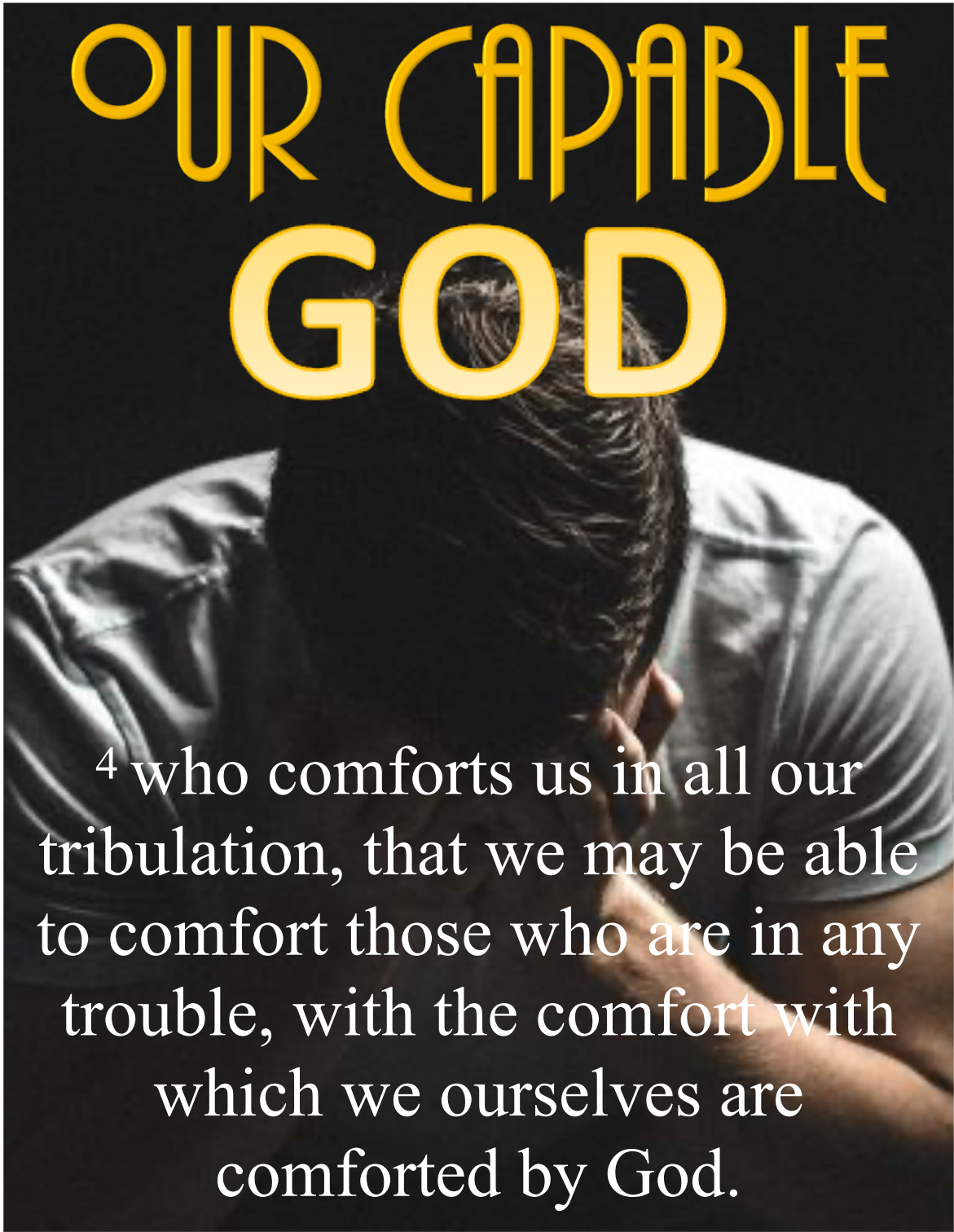


⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- ▶ **Job** — he FELT no comfort as he was suffering, (Job 7), but his trust in God and His eventual vindication helped him persevere (28:20-28) — God did INDEED deliver & comfort Job (42:12-17)
- ▶ **Joseph** — was sold into slavery by his own brothers, falsely accused and imprisoned, forgotten for two years, (Gen. 37:28; 39:1-41:1), but God delivered and comforted him (Gen. 41:14-45)

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OUR CAPABLE GOD



⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- ▶ **Paul** — suffered greatly for the cause of Christ (2 Cor 11:22-29; 12:7-10) — God did INDEED deliver & comfort Paul (2 Tim. 3:10; 1:10-12; 4:6-8)
- ▶ **JESUS** — His incarnation (Jn 1:14; Phili. 2:6,7; Heb. 2:9), the garden (Luke 22:39-46), His betrayal, (John 18:2–11), on trial, (Matt. 26:57-68; 27:1,2,11-28), His crucifixion (Matt. 27:31–56; Mark 15:20–41; Luke 23:26–33; John 19:16–30).

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OUR CAPABLE GOD



⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Psalm 22:19–26 (NKJV)

¹⁹ But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

²⁰ Deliver Me from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog.

²¹ Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me.

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OUR CAPABLE GOD



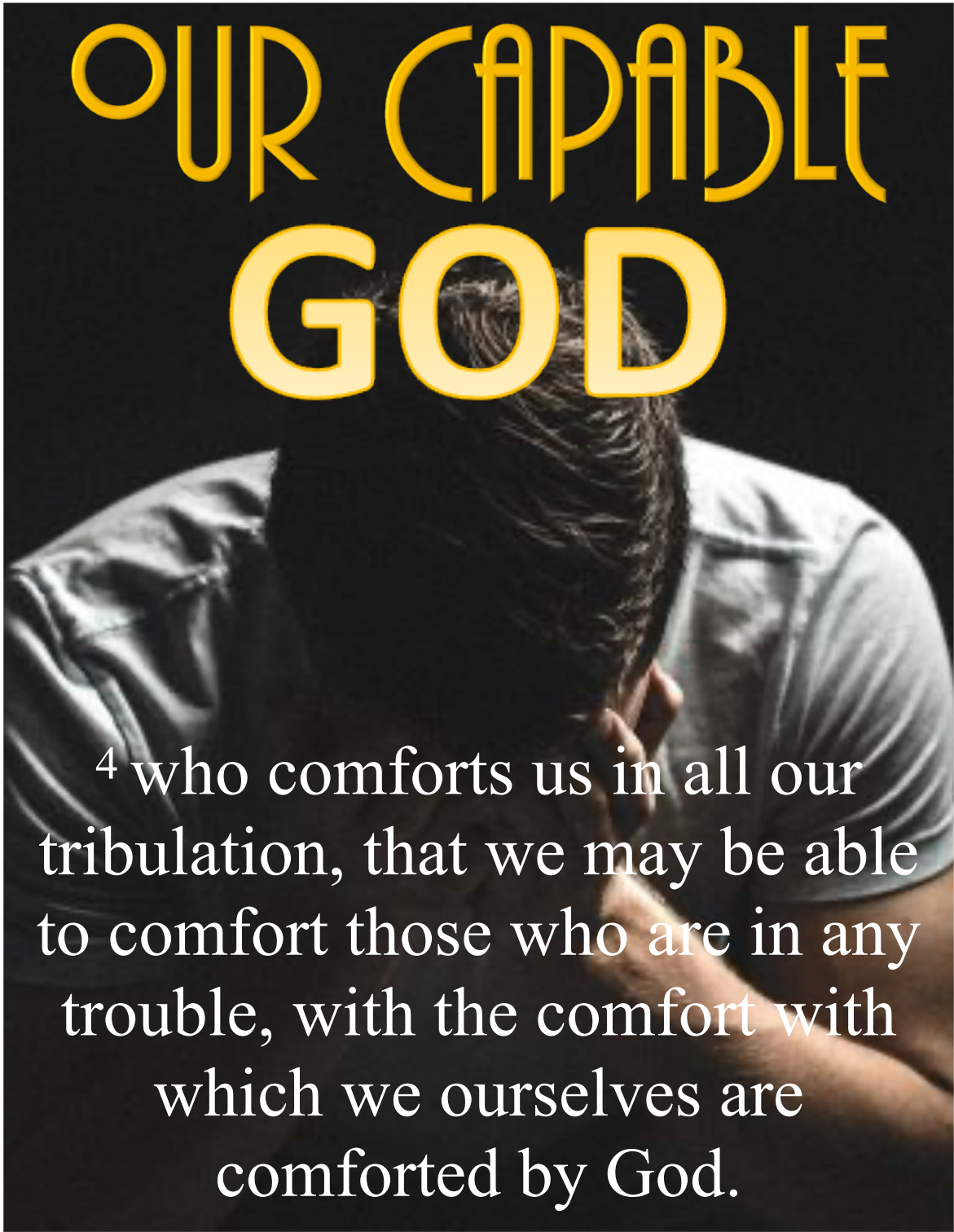
⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Psalm 22:19–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. ²⁵ My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever!

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OUR CAPABLE GOD



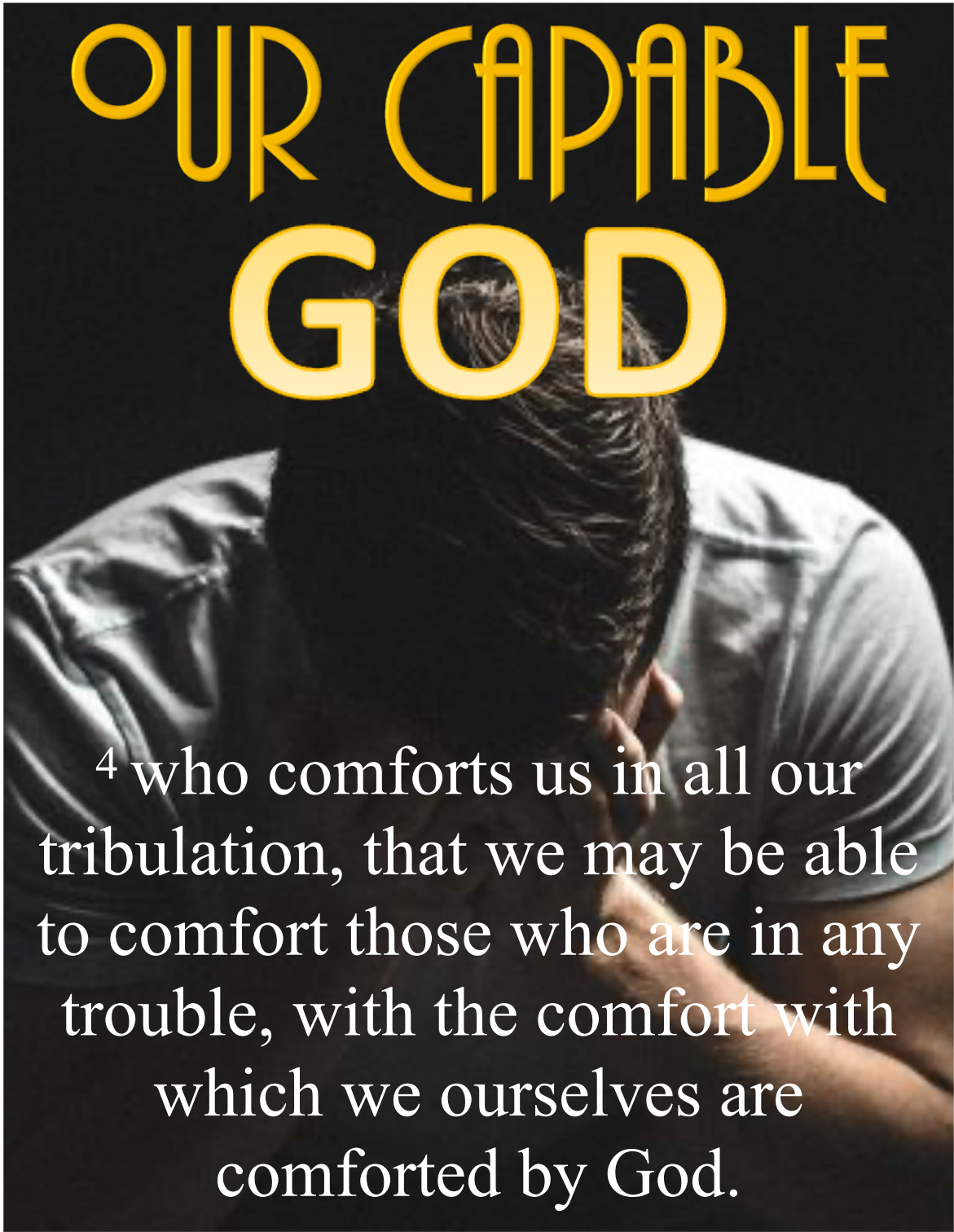
⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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OUR CAPABLE GOD

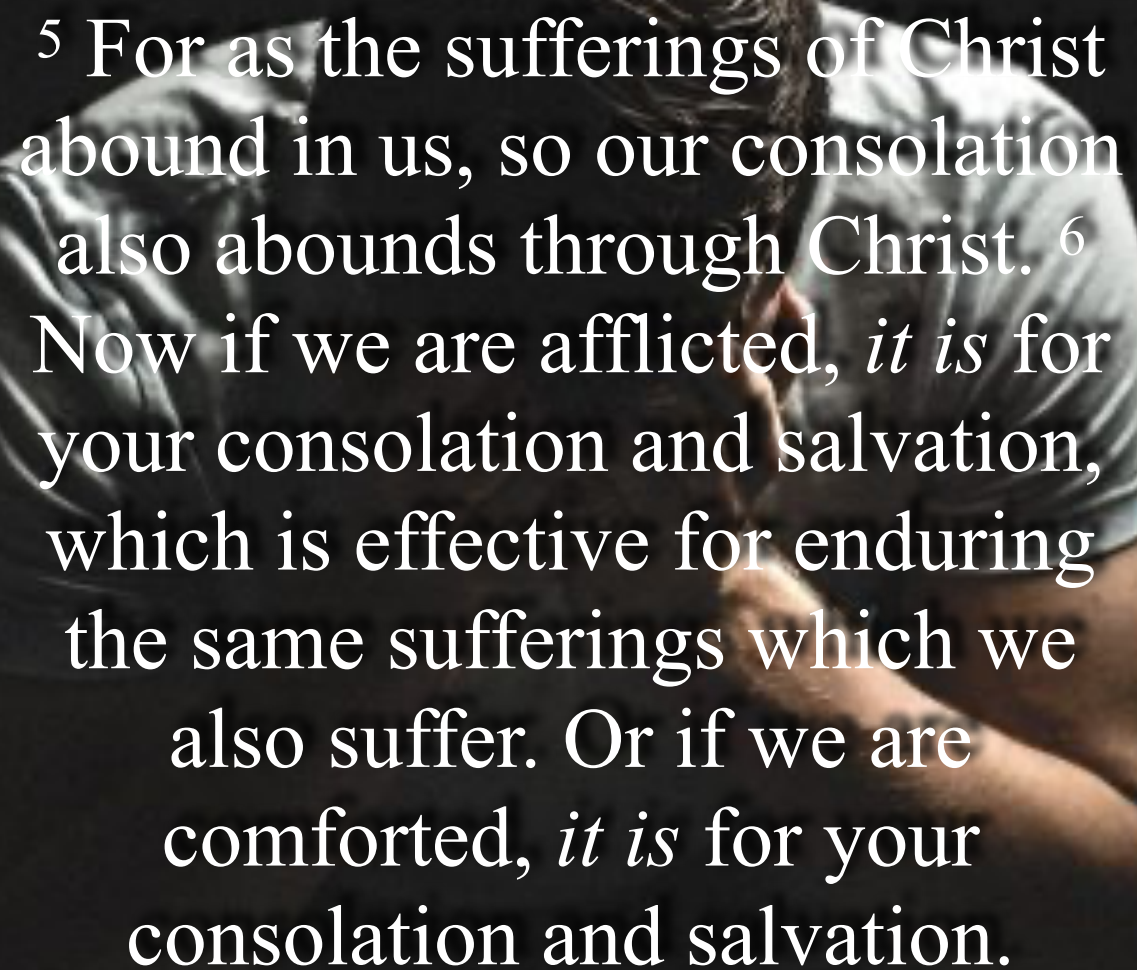


⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- ▶ God promises to provide comfort in all our tribulation (1:4; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Thes 2:16,17; Heb 13:5)
- ▶ When we receive God's comfort, we are better able to comfort others (*the comfort of God is channeled through people*) (cf. Rom. 12:15; 2 Cor. 7:6)

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OUR SUFFICIENT GOD

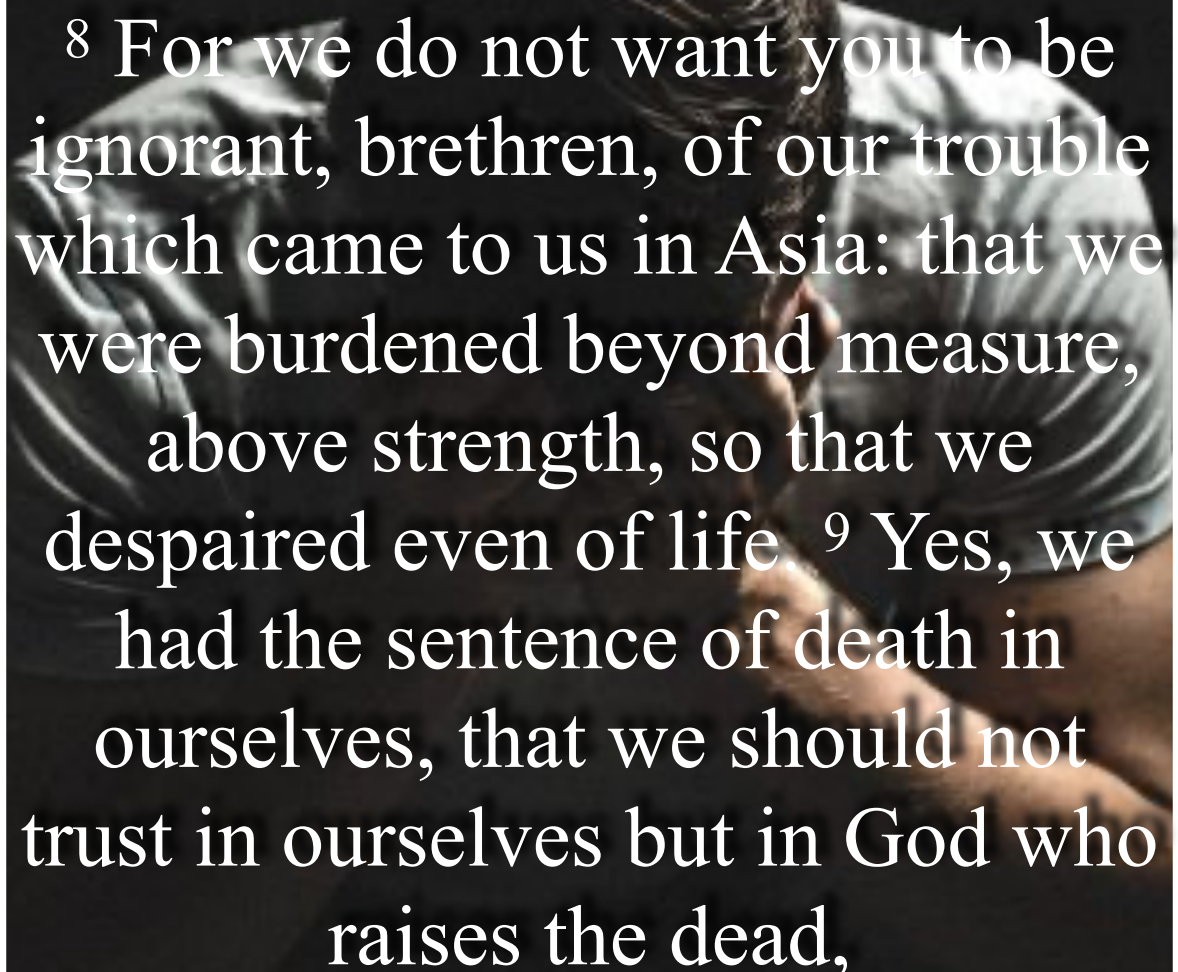


⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. ⁶ Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

- ▶ Our comfort is found in Christ (1:5,6; Eph 1:3)
- ▶ His sacrifice, through which we can be reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:18-21; Eph 2:16)
- ▶ Through faith, God equips us to endure whatever trouble may come our way (James 1:2-7; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; 1 Cor. 10:13)

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OUR HOPE IN GOD

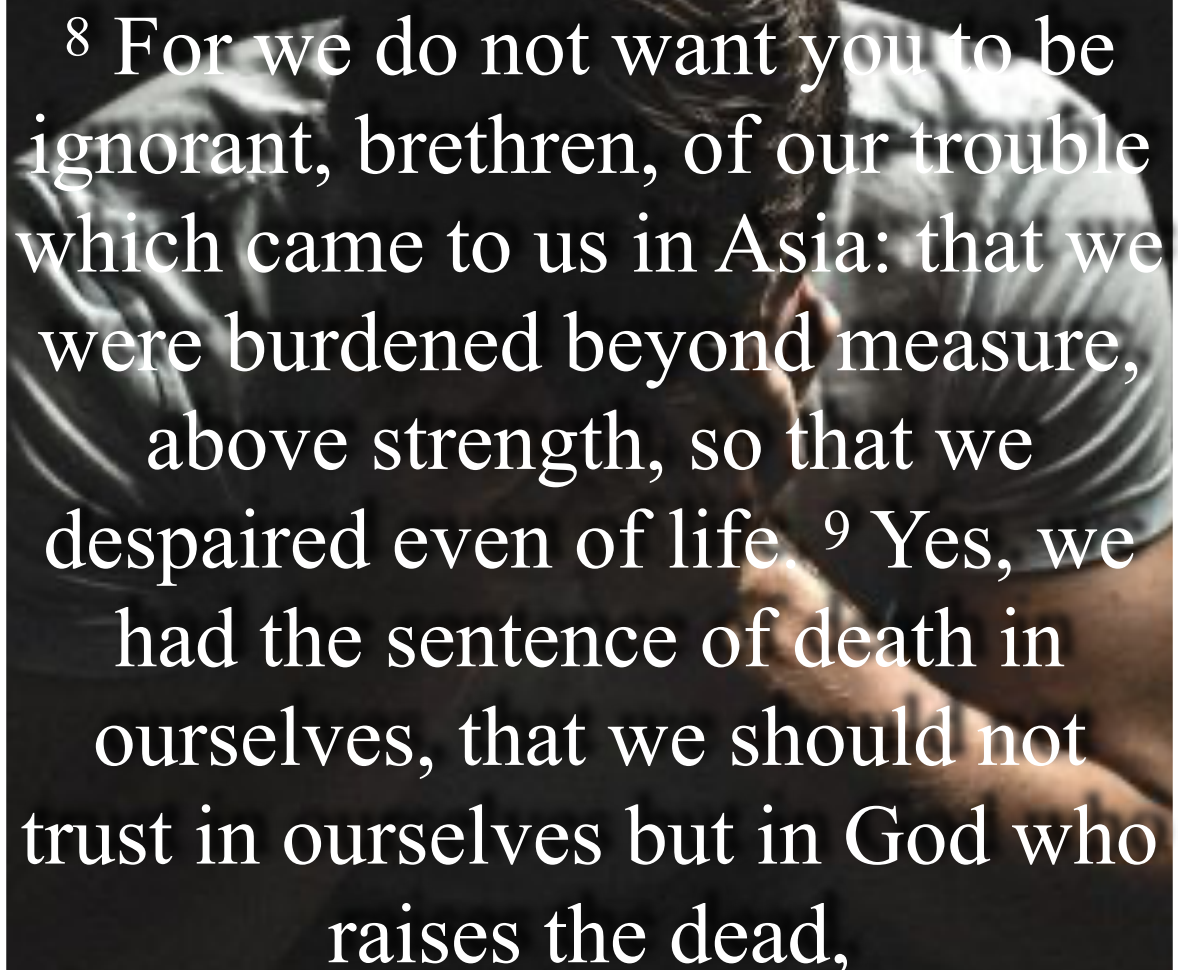


⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

- ▶ We can experience more pain than we can bear on our own! (2 Co. 1:8; 4:7-18)
- ▶ Our trust in God and His promises (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:11,12,18,19; 13:6)
- ▶ Our understanding of the purpose of trials (Jam. 1:2-7; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; Rom. 5:1-5; 8:17-25, 28-39)

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OUR HOPE IN GOD



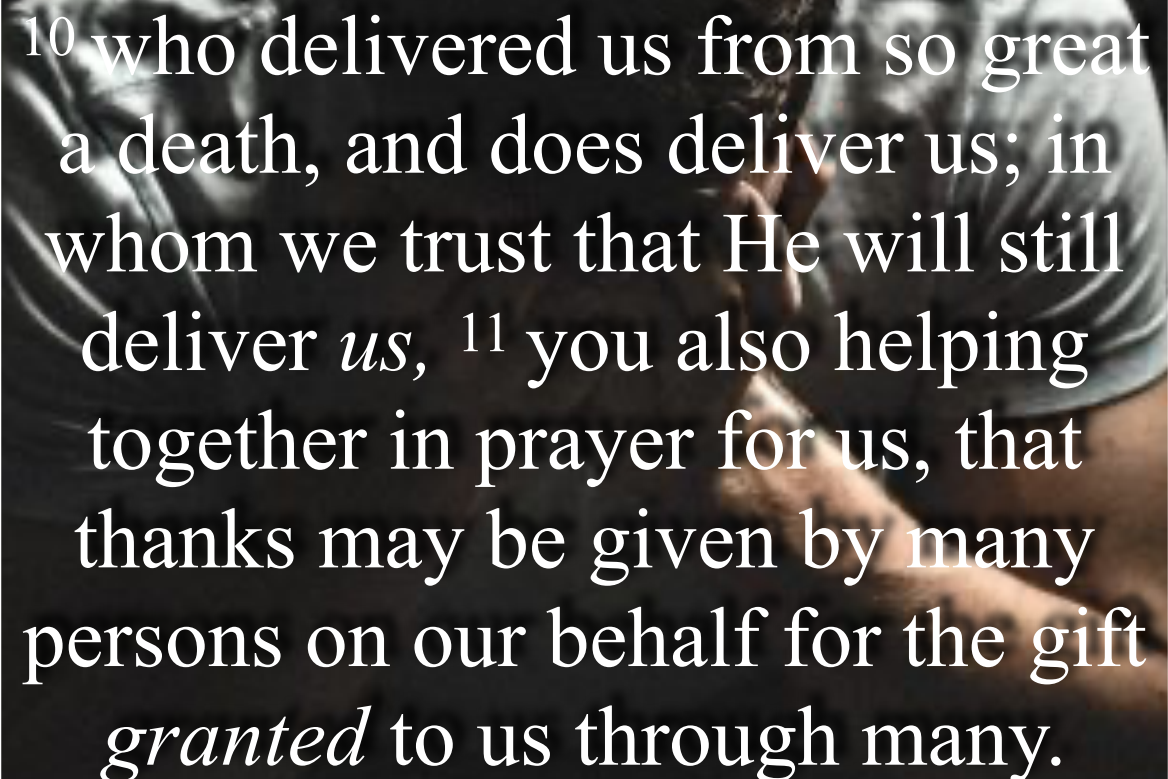
⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

► PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

- Deepen & purify our faith
- Detach Our FOCUS From This world
- Direct Our FOCUS Towards God
- Develop Our Sympathy
- Help Others In Crisis
- Distinguish Us From The World

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT

OUR SERVICE TO GOD



¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*, ¹¹ you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift *granted* to us through many.

- **When bad things happen we have three choices ...**
- We can let them define us
 - Let them destroy us -
 - Let them strengthen & perfect us so we become more effective in serving the Lord (James 1:2-12; 1 Pet 1:3-9; 5:6-10)

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- ▶ **Prepare** For Storms before they come! (Mat. 7:24-27; Luke 21:36; 2 Pet. 1:5-10)
- ▶ **Guard** against anxiety / worry (Mat. 6:25-34; Phili. 4:4-13; 1 Co. 10:13)
- ▶ **Enjoy** the good times & be thankful! (Eccl. 5:18; 1 Tim 6:17; James 1:17)

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- ▶ We must live godly no matter our circumstance - let our light shine (Mat 5:13-16; Phili. 2:14-16)
- ▶ Our trust in God and the peace we receive from Him is attractive to those who do not have God (Acts 16:23-25)
- ▶ Focus on the glorious eternal reward, not the temporary pain (Rom. 8:17,18; 2 Cor. 4:14-16; Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58)
- ▶ Pray for one another (1:11; Rom. 15:30; Phil. 1:19; Philem. 22)

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- ▶ As long as the world stands, there will be evil, injustice, hardship, suffering pain and death. (1 Thes. 4:17-18)
- ▶ But God has prepared a better world for the righteous! (Hebrews 11:13-16)

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT



Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

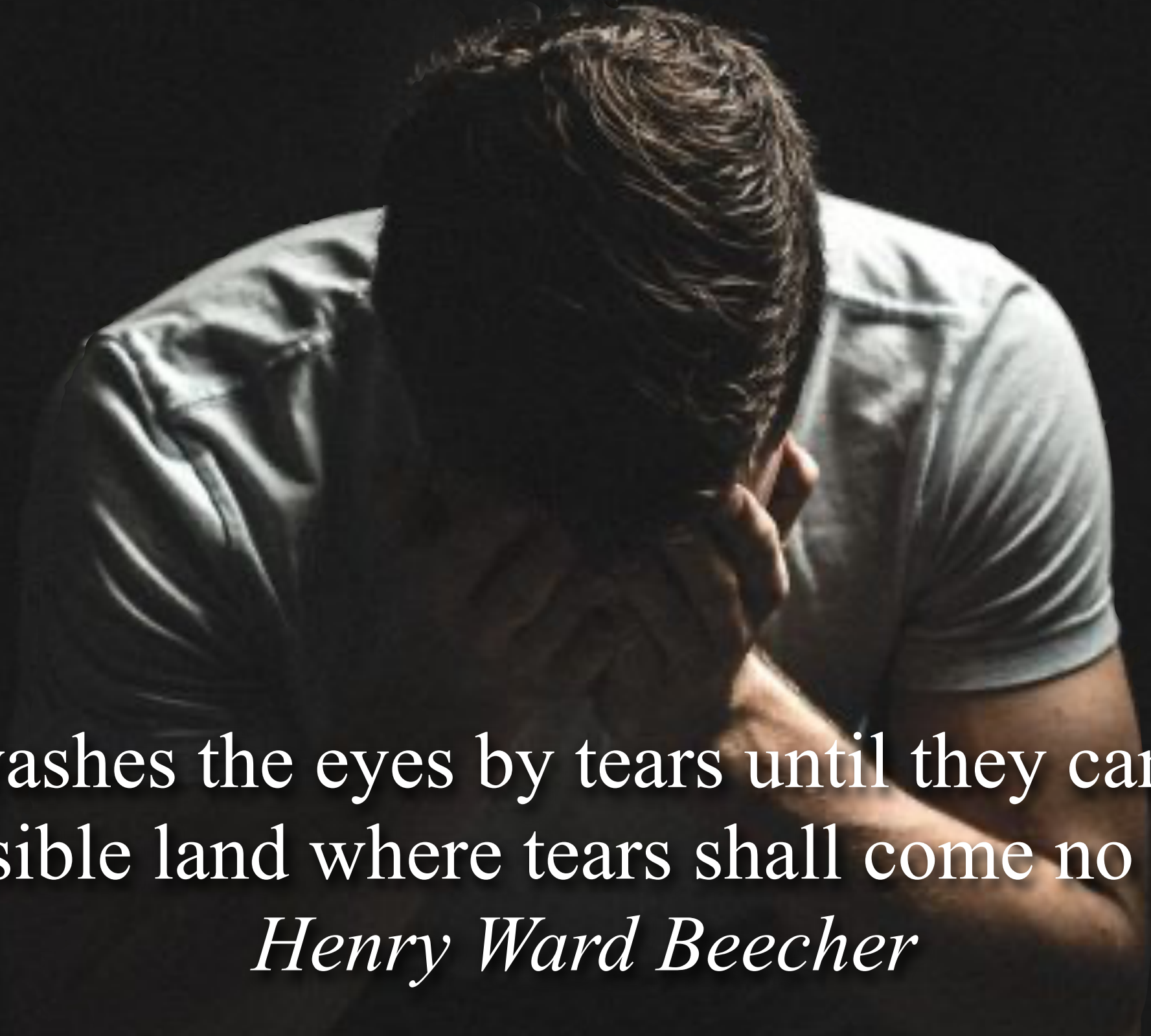
Acts 2:36-41; 1 Peter 3:14-22

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“An obedient faith in Jesus Christ does not guarantee a trouble free life, but a perfect eternity.”

THE GOD of ALL COMFORT



“God washes the eyes by tears until they can behold
the invisible land where tears shall come no More.” -
Henry Ward Beecher

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2 Corinthians 1:3-11



Charts by Don McClain

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