

A vertical poster for Easter Sunday 2021. The background is a textured, painterly depiction of a sunrise or sunset, with warm orange and yellow light breaking through dark, swirling clouds. The text is centered and reads: 'APRIL 4 · 2021' in a small, white, sans-serif font; 'EASTER SUNDAY' in a larger, bold, yellow, sans-serif font; 'COMFORTED' in a large, blue, serif font; 'BY' in a smaller, blue, serif font; 'RESURRECTION' in a large, blue, serif font; and 'hope' in a large, flowing, orange-brown script font. At the bottom, '2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by 'PASTOR PHIL WARD' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

APRIL 4 · 2021

EASTER SUNDAY

COMFORTED
BY
RESURRECTION
hope

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

PASTOR PHIL WARD

Notes

- A. God is the Father of mercies (2 Corinthians 1:3–4)
 - 1. God is merciful and a comforter (2 Corinthians 1:3)
 - 2. God comforts the afflicted (2 Corinthians 1:4a)
 - 3. The comfort we receive is meant to multiply to other sufferers (2 Corinthians 1:4b)
- B. Believing in Jesus means we share in both His suffering and abundant comfort (2 Corinthians 1:5, Philippians 3:10–11)
- C. Paul's testimony of suffering and being comforted together (2 Corinthians 1:6–7; Galatians 6:2)

- A. How affliction can affect us (**2 Corinthians 1:8–9a**)
 - 1. We feel burdened beyond our strength (**2 Corinthians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 4:6–9**)
 - 2. We entertain despairing thoughts
 - 3. We feel that we are sentenced to death
- B. Affliction can produce God-dependent hope (**2 Corinthians 1:9**)
 - 1. Affliction confronts our self-sufficiency (**2 Corinthians 1:9b**)
 - 2. Affliction offers us the opportunity to admit we are powerless
 - 3. Affliction directs our hope toward God
- C. What incentive is there to rely on God and not ourselves? (**2 Corinthians 1:9–10**)
 - 1. Although we are powerless, God reveals His power by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 3:10; 1 Corinthians 6:14**)
 - 2. God will deliver us one way or another (**2 Corinthians 1:10**)
- D. In our afflictions, we experience comfort when we set out hope on God rather than self, since is all-powerful evidenced by Jesus' resurrection (**2 Corinthians 1:10–11**)
 - 1. We comfort one another by reminding one another of the hope we have in Jesus (**1 Peter 1:3–5**)
 - 2. We comfort one another by praying for one another (**2 Corinthians 1:11**)

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11

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 affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. 7 Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. According to this text, what is God's purpose in comforting the afflicted? How have you personally experienced this purpose?
2. What comes to mind when you think about sharing in Christ's suffering? What about sharing in Christ's abundant comfort?
3. When it comes to affliction and comfort, what role does the church play? How can we—the church, the body of the Christ—provide comfort to the afflicted?
4. How can affliction affect us? Of the potential effects of affliction, which can you resonate with most? Why?
5. How can affliction produce God-dependency? What is God-dependency?
6. How does the resurrection comfort and give hope to the afflicted? How can you comfort the afflicted with resurrection hope?