

IN THE HANDS OF A COMPASSIONATE GOD

April 26, 2020 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 By Bob Branch

When you're in the squeeze, WHO do you talk to?

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

BIG IDEA: Our compassionate Father brings comfort in the squeeze to build resilience so we can pay it forward.

1. _____

"You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he

adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." " **Romans 8:15** NLT

1. The **COMPASSIONATE FATHER** _____

2. _____—in all our troubles—*thlipsis*.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

1 Peter 4:12

3. _____ thru the squeeze.
hupomone

"...we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Romans 5:3-4

4. _____ to others.

What does this challenge in you?

Do you know the compassion of the Father who adopted you into his family? How do you see God?

Do you know this compassionate God at all?

What is your squeeze now?

Can you alter your perspective to see that God is working in the squeeze to build endurance and character in you?

Who in your world needs your presence and comfort now?