



2 CORINTHIANS
THORN IN THE FLESH



2 Cor. 6:4-10

in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings,
imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights
and hunger . . . regarded as impostors.... regarded as
unknown; dying... beaten... sorrowful...

2 Cor. 11:23-28

been in **prison** more frequently, been **flogged** more severely, and been **exposed to death** again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty **lashes** minus one.

Three times I was **beaten** with rods, once I was **stoned**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent a night and a day in the open sea...

2 Cor. 11:23-28

I have been in **danger** from **rivers**, in danger from **bandits**, in danger from my own **countrymen**, in danger from **Gentiles**; in danger in the **city**, in danger in the **country**, in danger at **sea**; and in danger from **false brothers**. I have labored and toiled and have often gone **without sleep**;

2 Cor. 11:23-28

I have known **hunger** and **thirst** and have often gone **without food**; I have been **cold** and **naked**.

2 CORINTHIANS
THORN IN THE FLESH

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Corinth*



II Corinthians

W

N

E





Paul In Corinth

| Acts 18:1-17 |

ACTS





FIRST
CORINTHIANS



*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Corinth*



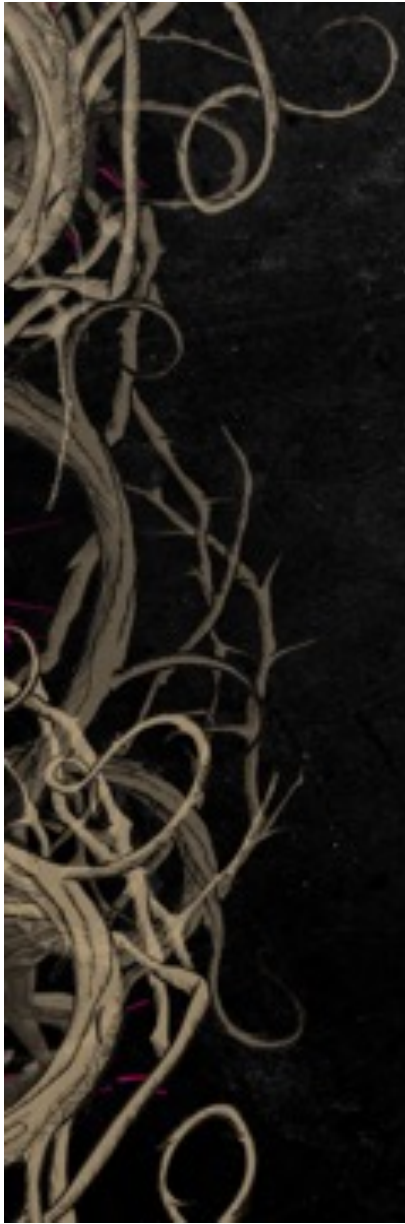
II Corinthians

W

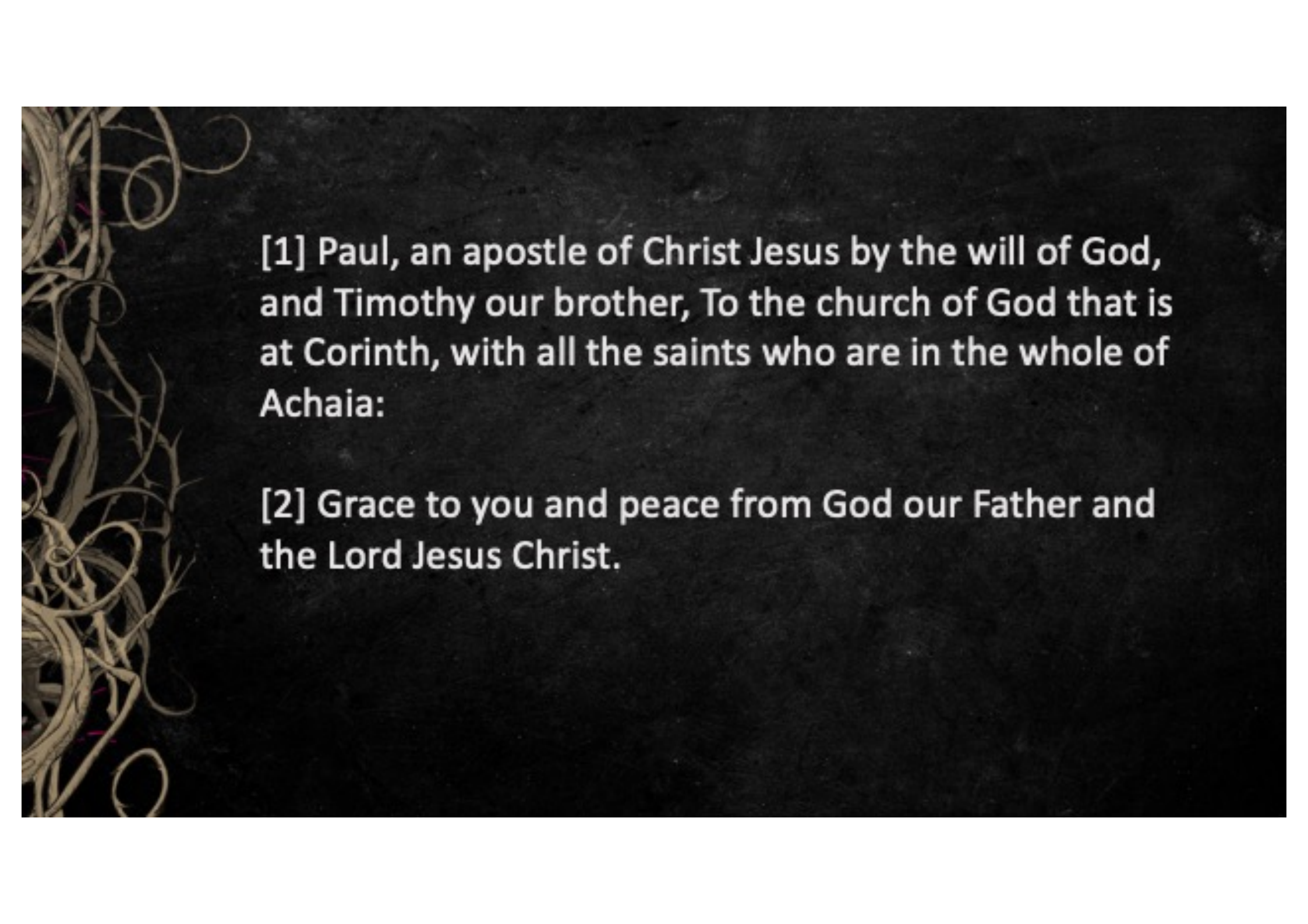
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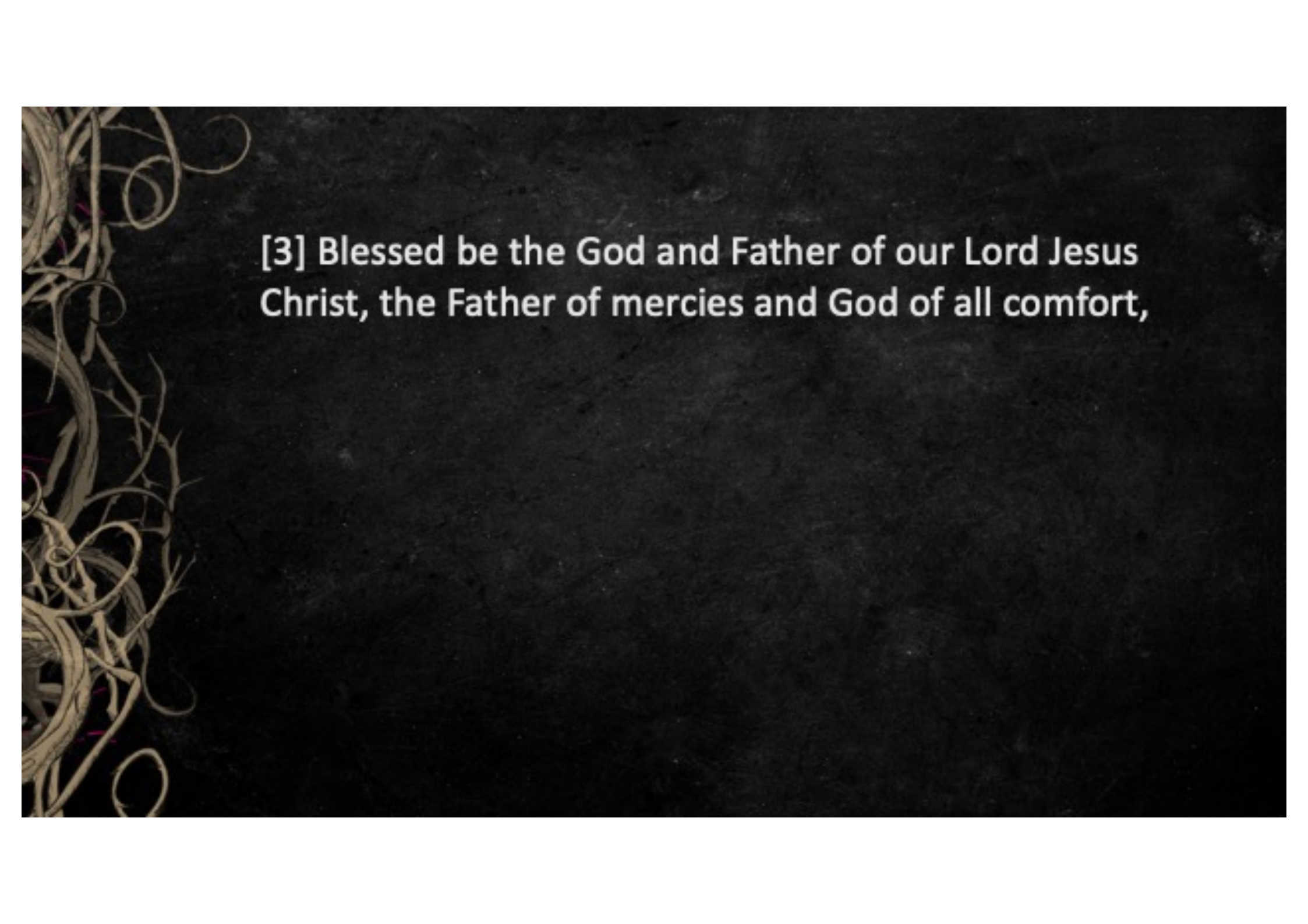


[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is
at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of
Achaia:

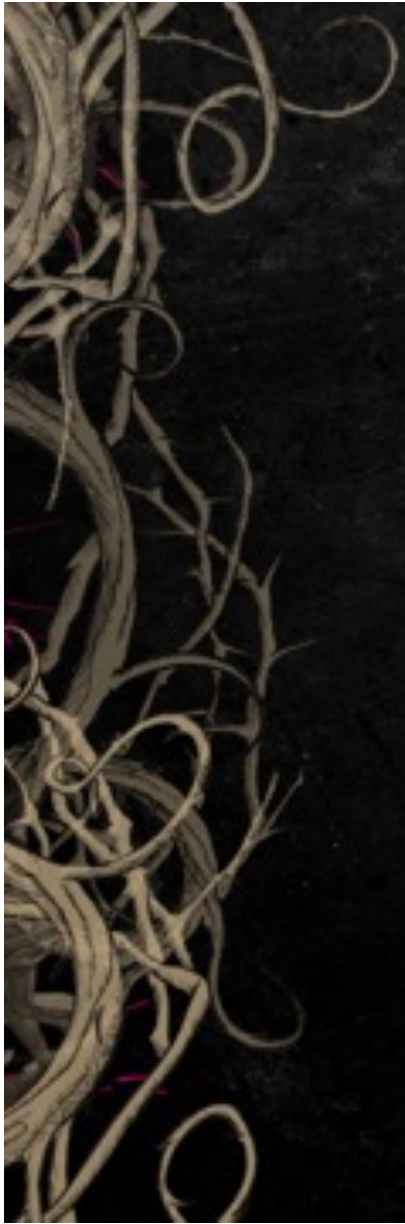


[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is
at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of
Achaia:

[2] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

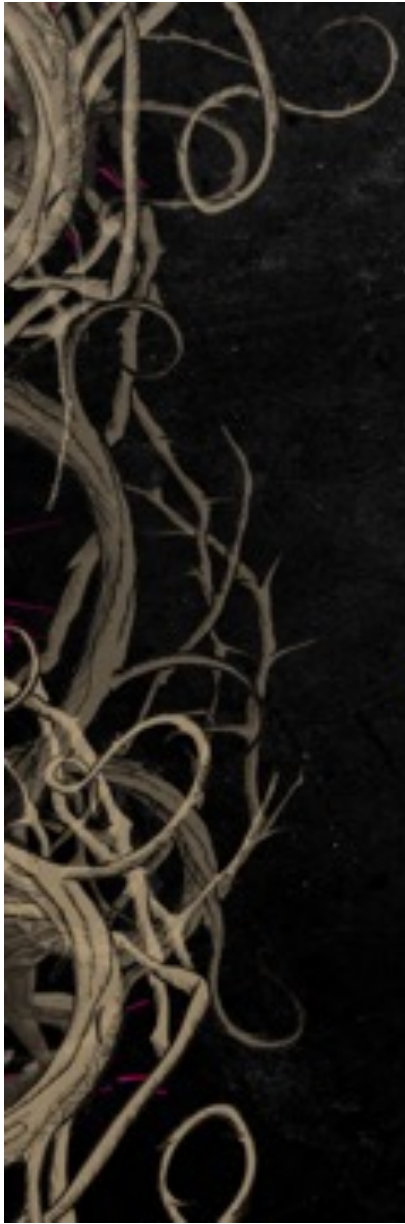


[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,



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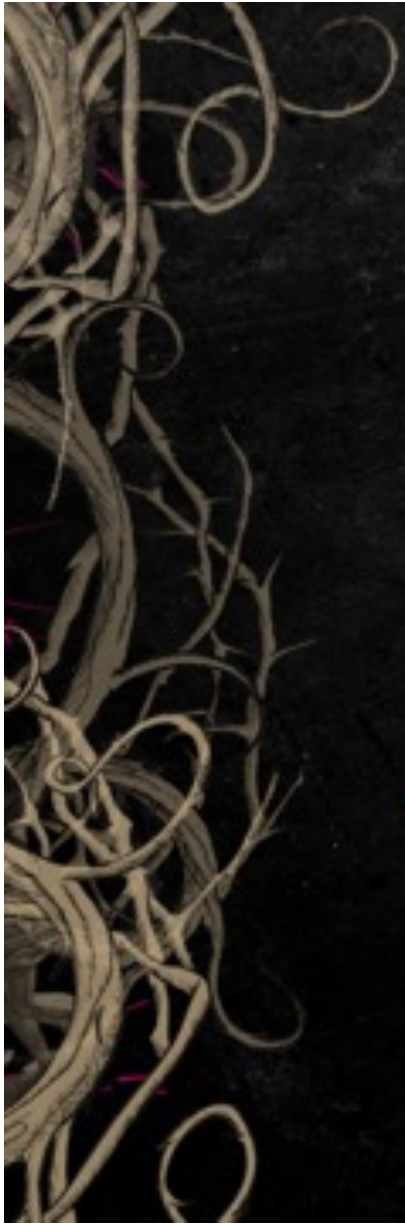
[4] who comforts us in all our affliction...



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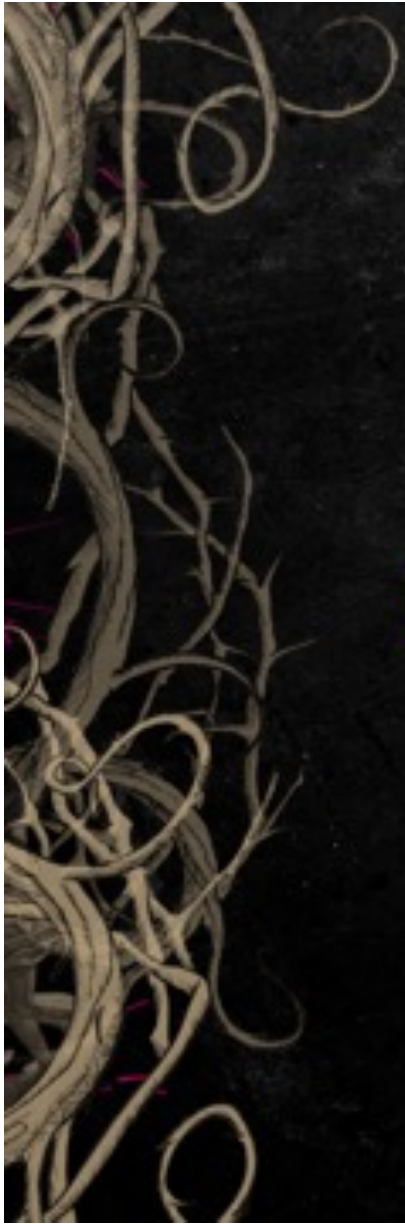
He is not the God of ease, to always shield us from pain



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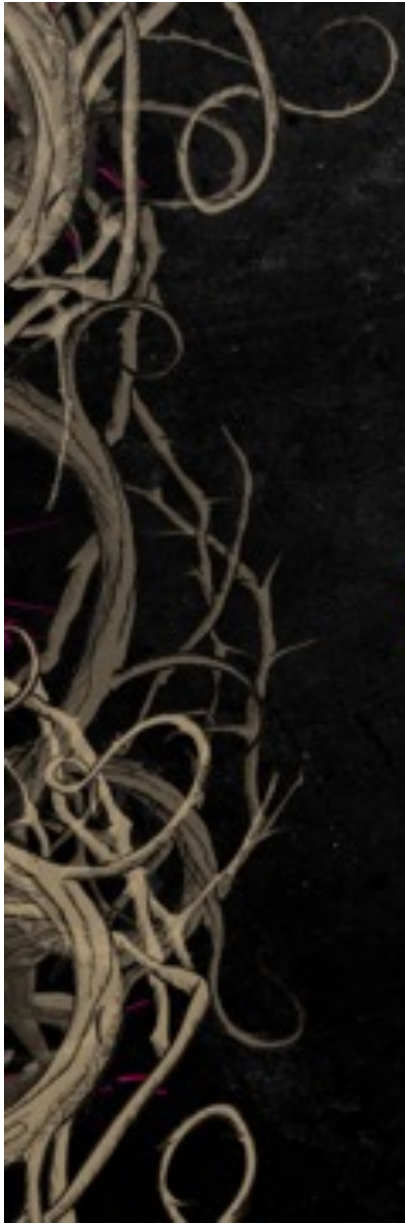
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He is not the God of ease, to always shield us from pain but the God of all comfort, to strengthen us through it.



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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.



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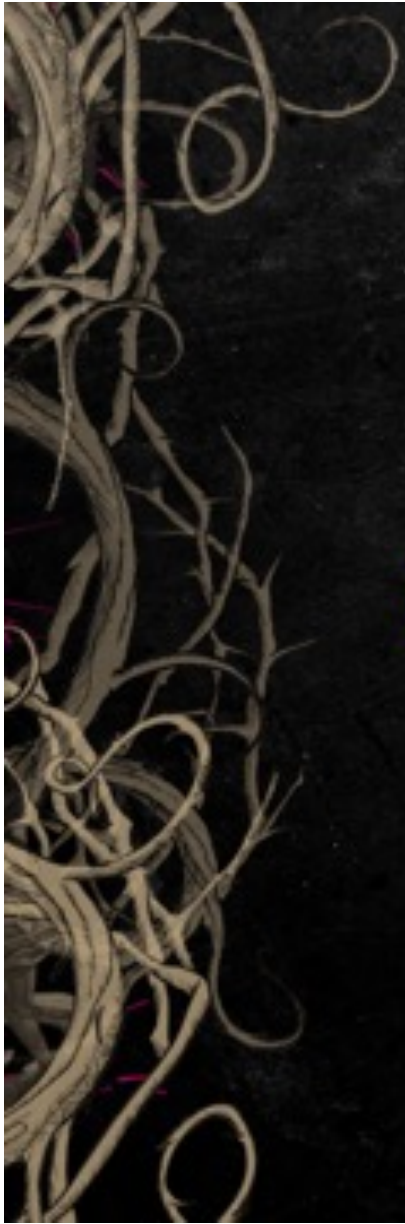
**“Afflictions are not accidental, nor incidental,
but intentional.”**



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**“God does not comfort us to make us comfortable,
but to make us comforters.”**



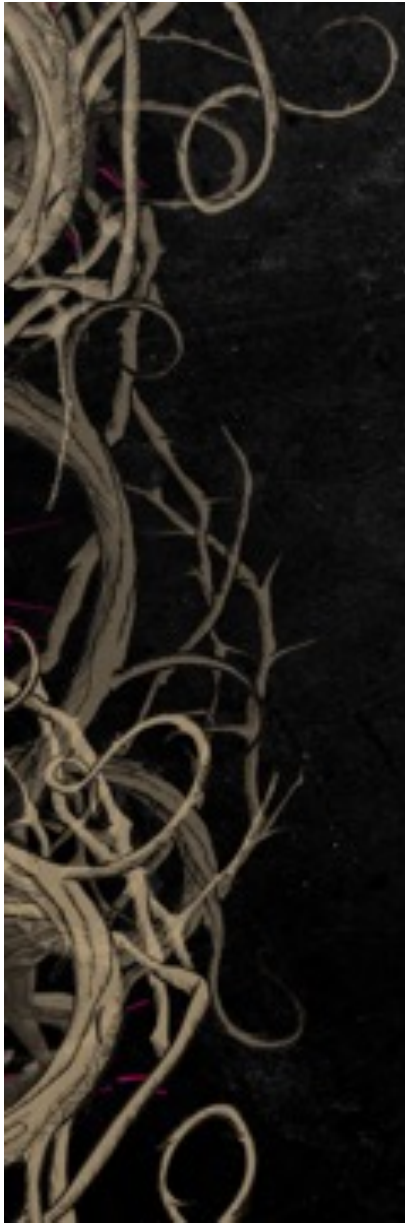
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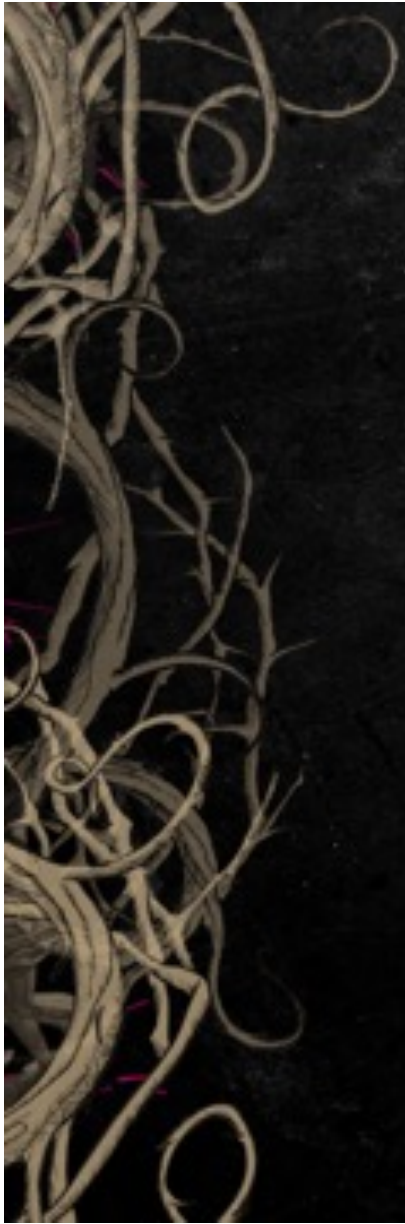
“A 1000 sorrows prepare a preacher to preach.”

John Piper



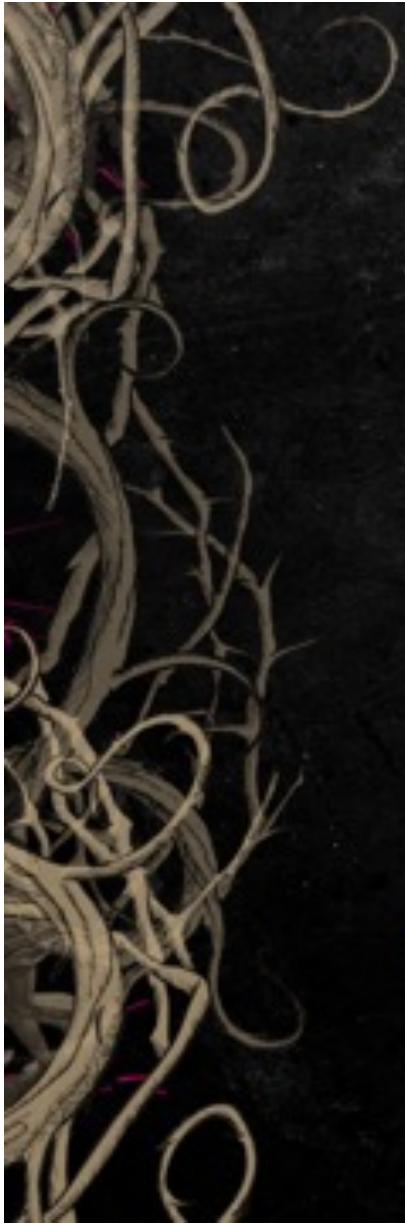


[5] For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings,
so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.



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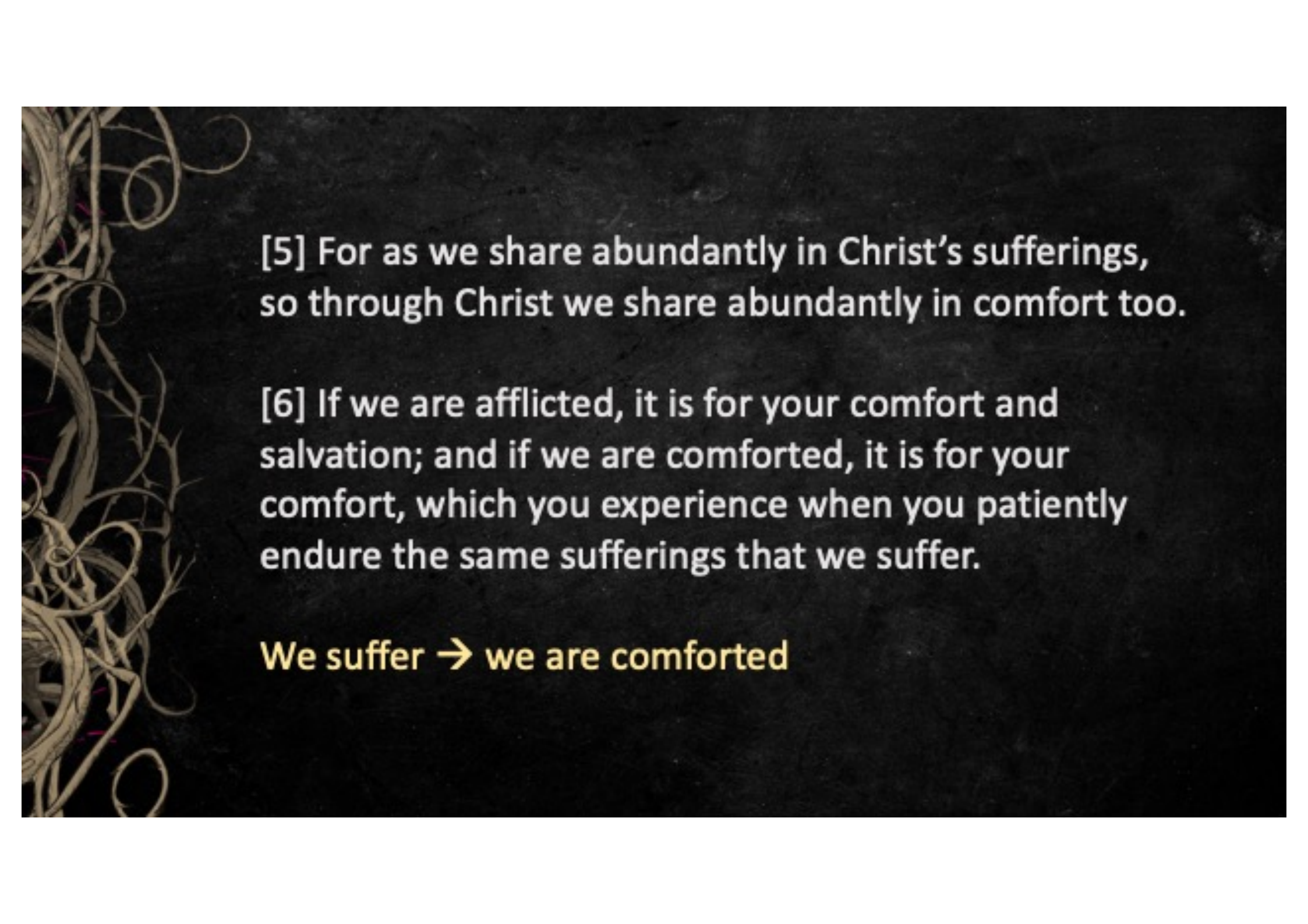
[6] If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.



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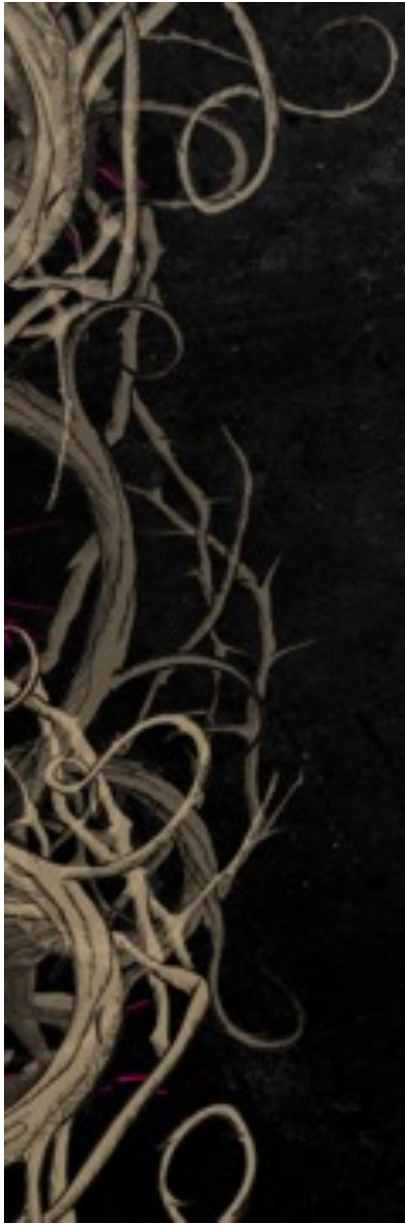
We suffer



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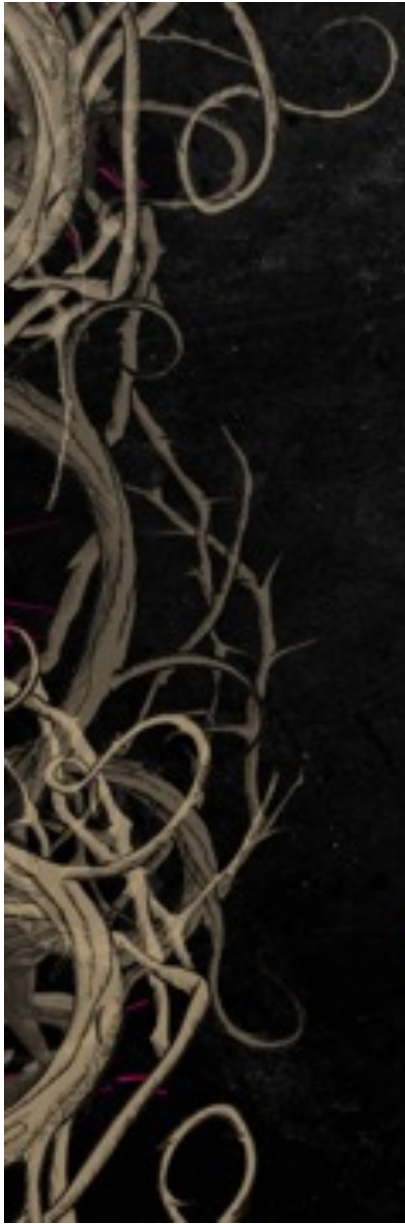
We suffer → we are comforted



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We suffer → we are comforted → for your comfort

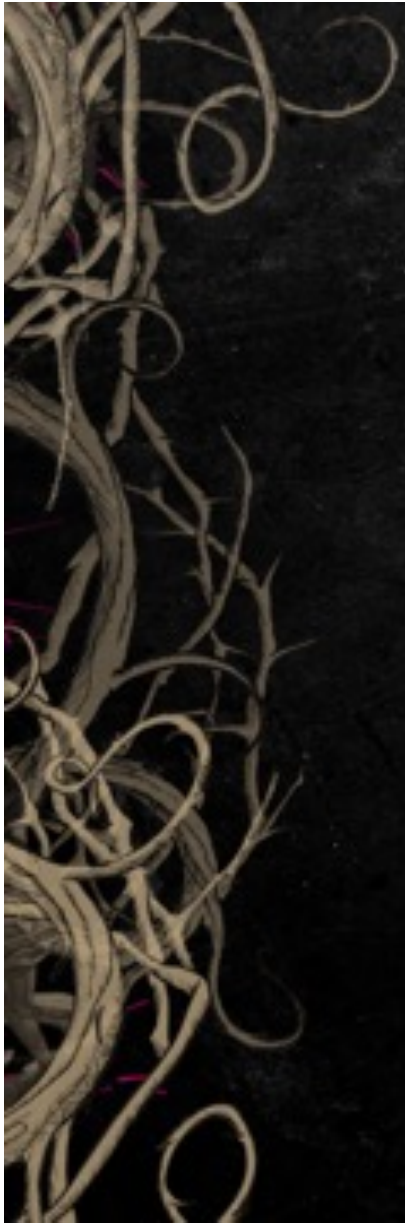


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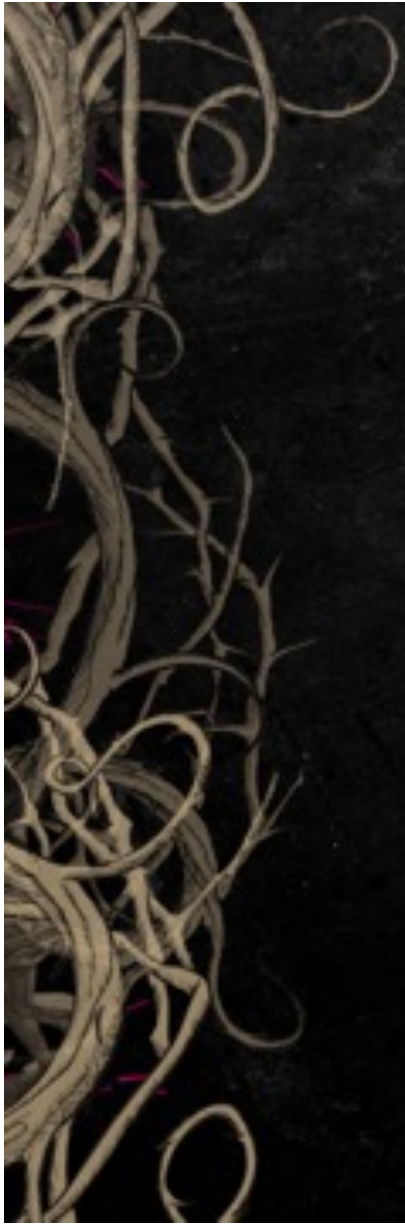
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We suffer → we are comforted → for your comfort

Their lives are inescapably intertwined

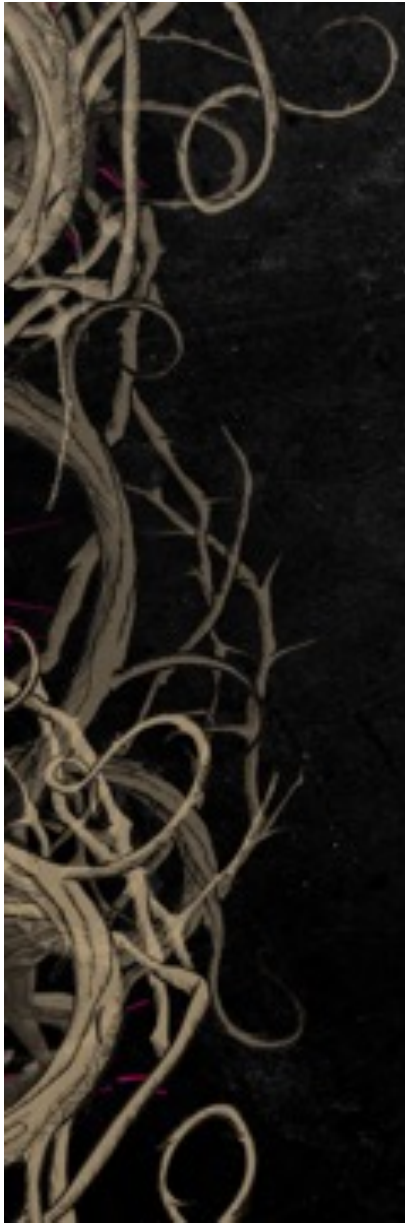


[7] Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.



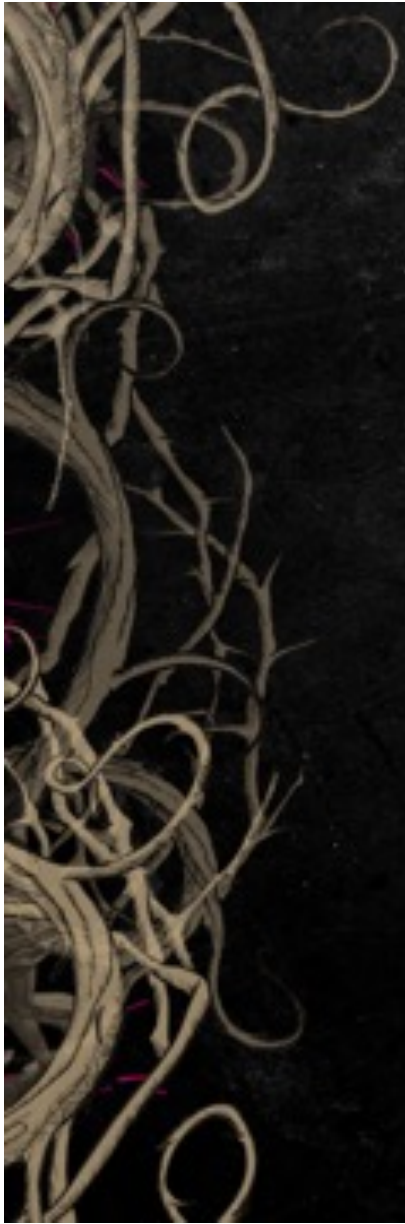
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So whilst some think Paul suffering means he's fake,

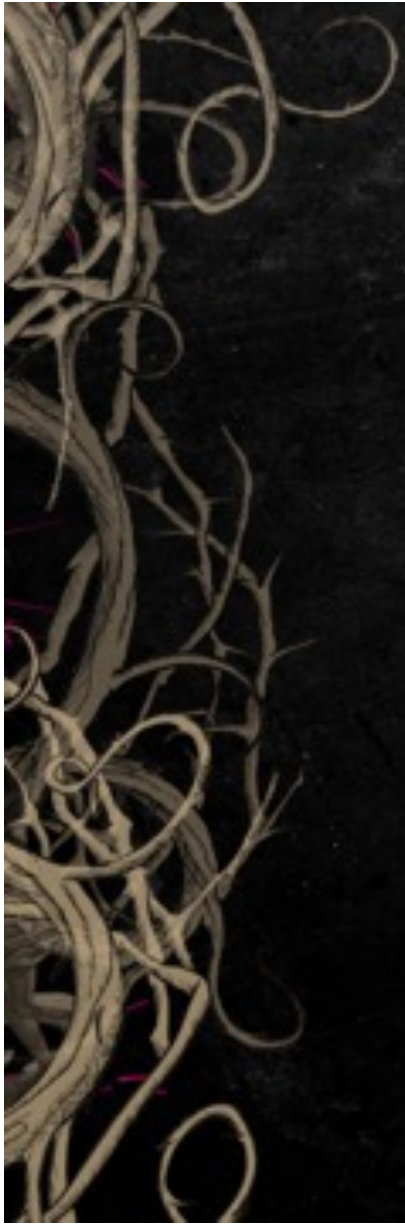


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So whilst some think Paul suffering means he's fake, it is really part of God's plan to fit him for service.

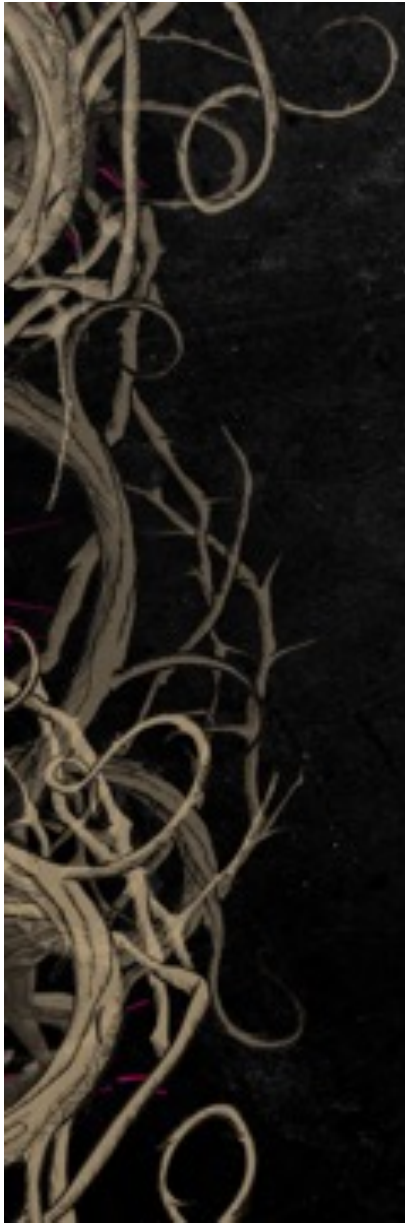


[8] For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.



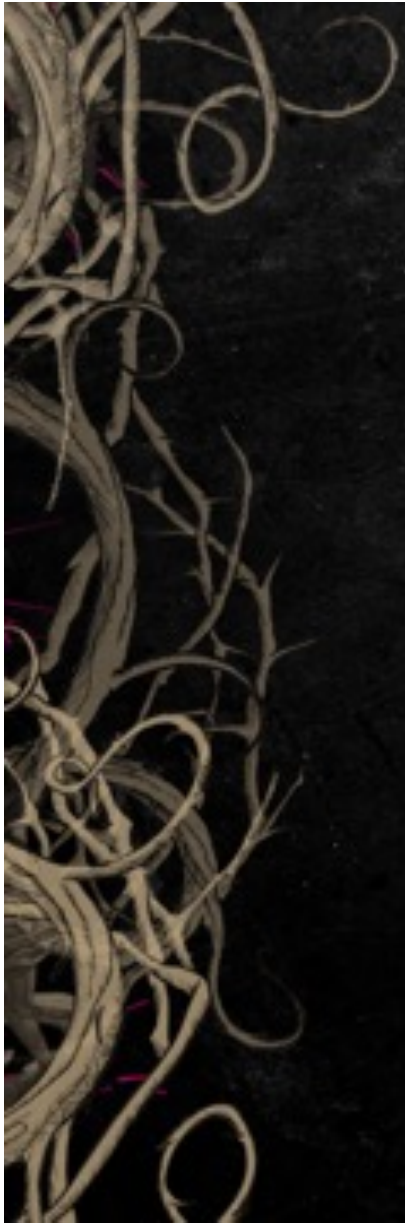
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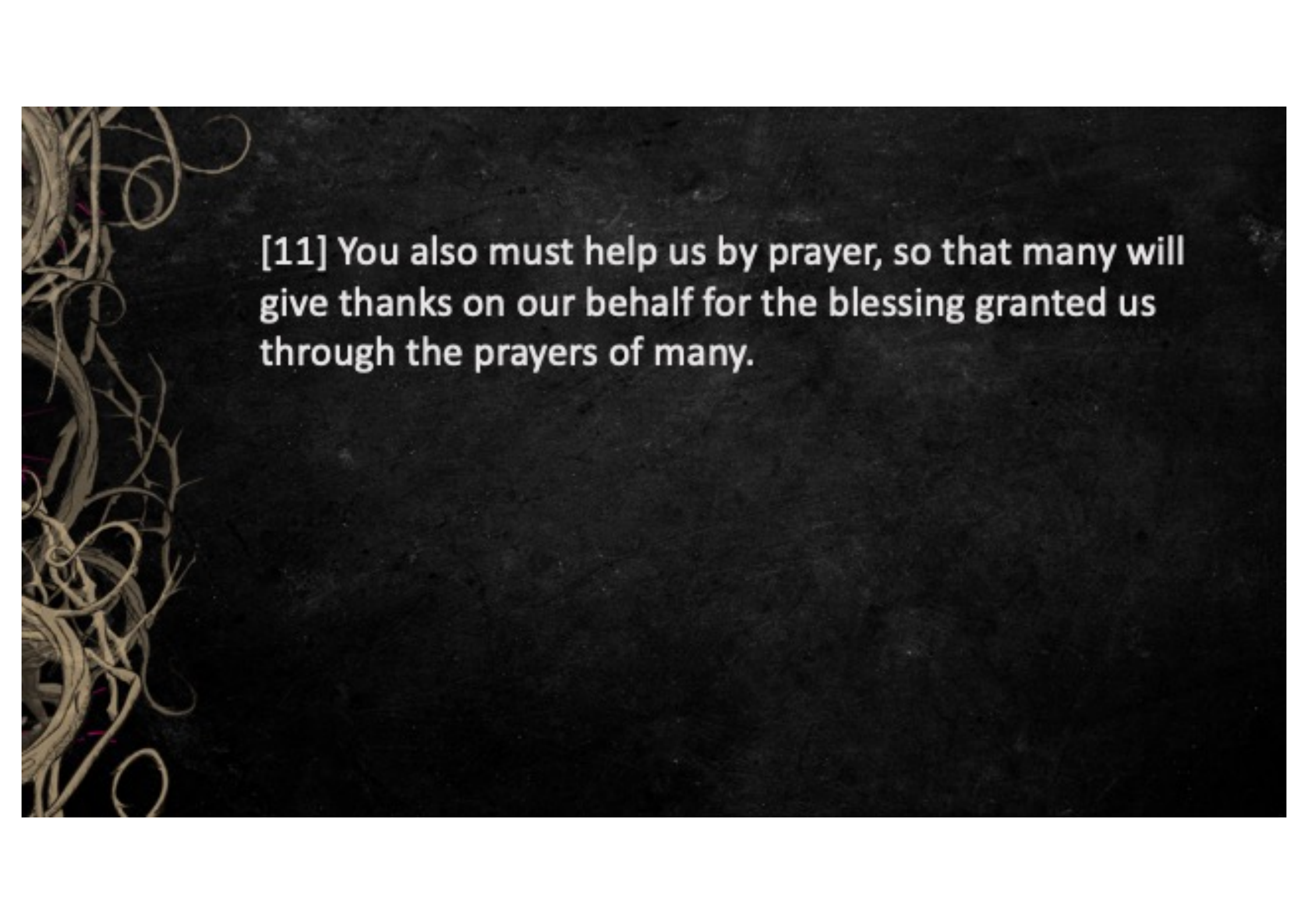


[8] For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

[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.

COMFORTED TO COMFORT

2CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

2 CORINTHIANS
THORN IN THE FLESH

1. Afflictions as a Sign?

2 CORINTHIANS
THORN IN THE FLESH

1. Afflictions as a Sign?

Afflicted = God does not love you?

Acts 9:15–16

...he is a **chosen instrument** of mine to carry my name
before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

Acts 9:15–16

...he is a **chosen instrument** of mine to carry my name
before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.
For I will show him **how much he must suffer**
for the sake of my name.

1. Afflictions as a Sign?

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It's not a reliable sign of God's favor/disfavor

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Think Paul

1. Afflictions as a Sign?

Afflicted = God does not love you?

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Think Paul, Jesus

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Afflicted = God does not love you?

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Think Paul, Jesus & God.

1. Afflictions as a Sign?

2 CORINTHIANS
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2. Afflictions as a School

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THORN IN THE FLESH

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A 1000 sorrows prepare a preacher to preach.

3. Afflictions as a Seamstress

2 CORINTHIANS
THORN IN THE FLESH



1. Afflictions as a Sign?

2 CORINTHIANS
THORN IN THE FLESH

- 1. Afflictions as a Sign?**
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