

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: Real Comfort for Really Hard Times

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

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

1

REVIEW THE SERMON

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. As you read this passage, what are the two main themes that are woven together? How are these two themes connected to each other?

See verse 5. What does it mean to share abundantly in Christ's sufferings? What does it look like to share abundantly in Christ's comfort? How is it possible to experience comfort while we are in the midst of suffering?

For what purpose does God comfort us during hard times? How can our own experiences of suffering and pain become a blessing to other people?

See verses 8 and 9. Why would God allow his people to experience times of suffering, even such extreme difficulties as would cause them to despair of life itself? How could it be loving for our heavenly Father to allow his children to go through times of intense suffering?

2

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Have you experienced times of significant affliction and suffering in your own life? If so, how did you experience God's comfort and love during those times?

In general, how does Western culture deal with the problem of pain and suffering? What are some common attitudes and approaches you have encountered? How do these approaches compare and contrast with the Christian understanding of suffering?

3

APPLY THE TRUTH

How does the Gospel of Jesus Christ transform and redeem our experience of suffering? How does our hope in God deliver us from the fear of suffering? What difference does it make for us to know that Christ himself experienced suffering on our behalf?

How can we properly prepare ourselves and our children for future suffering? How might we prepare for hard times as a church community?

4

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Do you know anyone who is experiencing difficult times right now? If so, how can you bring God's comfort to them, perhaps even this week?