

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week, we began studying the second epistle of Paul to the Corinthians.
- * As we began our study, we considered Paul's "thesis statement" regarding the purpose of affliction in the life of the believer. Through afflictions, we have the opportunity to receive the encouragement of God and, subsequently, to dispense that same encouragement to others who are experiencing afflictions. Hence, rather than seeing trials as the world sees them – as hindrances and enemies to our happiness – we must come to embrace them knowing that our Sovereign God allowed them into our lives in order that we might grow in our knowledge of Christ and glorify He who redeemed us by His blood!
- * During that message, we mentioned that throughout his letter to the church of Corinth, Paul would refer to his own afflictions and the various trials and tribulations which the believers in Corinth had already experienced, or were currently experiencing.
- * Today, we begin to consider the example that God allowed Paul to be to the church and, Paul's desire for the church.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE BURDEN OF PAUL (1:8-11; 2:12-17)****A. The E_____ of His Afflictions (1:8-9)**

1. THE S_____ OF D_____
2. THE S_____ OF D_____

B. The P_____ of His Afflictions (1:9-10; 2:12-17)

1. TOWARDS THOSE W_____ HIM: T_____ (1:9-10)
2. TOWARDS THOSE P_____ HIM: T_____ (1:11)
3. TOWARDS THOSE O_____ HIM: T_____ (2:12-17)
cf. Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 5:2; Philippians 4:18

II. THE BOASTING OF PAUL (1:12 – 2:11)**A. The Witness of His C_____ Regarding His Conduct in the W_____ (1:12)****B. The Witness of His G_____ Regarding His Conduct Toward the C_____ (1:23; 1:13ff)**

1. HIS DESIRE TO R_____ THEIR S_____ (1: 13-20)
2. HIS DESIRE TO R_____ THEIR S_____ (1:21-2:11; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5)

INTROSPECTION

- * What is your view of troubles and afflictions?
- * Are you trusting Him in the midst of the trials that you might be going through currently?
- * Is it your desire to glorify God – in spite of the adversities which you may be facing?
- * As you go through tribulation and affliction, one of the greatest trials is learning to grow in the mind of Christ by continuing to place the value and needs of others above your own!
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Though this is not a topic that we enjoy considering, how can we grow in placing the glory of God and the needs of others above ourselves in the midst of afflictions?
- * A side subject in this section of Paul's letter, is the forgiveness of the man who was mentioned to be placed under church discipline in Paul's first epistle (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Church discipline is a trial/affliction that most church's prefer to avoid. How should the church address discipline issues while considering our "witness" in the world?