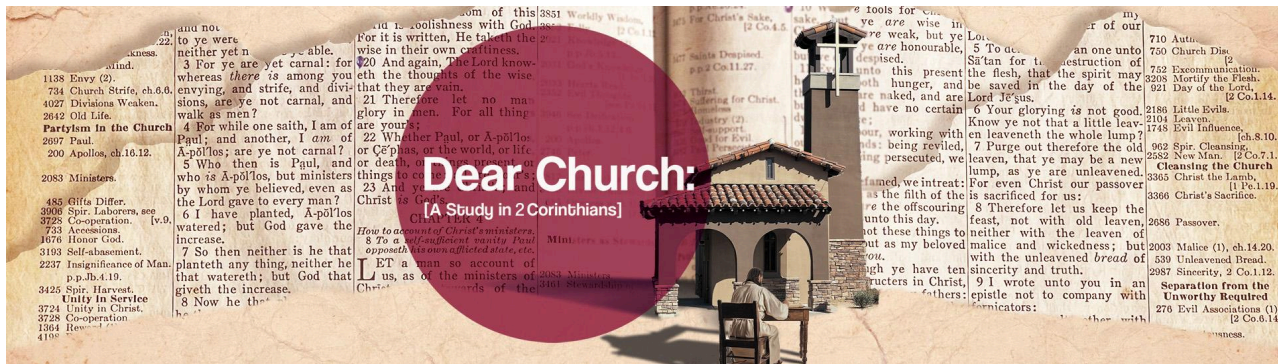




God of All Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 | Ed Lutz

Paul's Reminders about suffering and affliction:

1. We have a God of all comfort (vv. 3a-4)
2. We have and will face affliction, and it can become our ministry (vv. 4b-6)
3. We have hope (vv. 7-10)
4. We need to pray for each other (v. 11)

As a group, take time to read aloud 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

Grow in Your Faith:

1. Paul begins this passage on affliction, suffering, and comfort by praising God. When you are in the midst of hard times, do you find it easy or hard to praise God?
2. Ask yourself, "When I face really hard circumstances, I hide them or reveal them to others?"
3. What do you think Paul means in verse 5 by the thought that we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings and share abundantly in comfort?
4. How were you impacted by some of the illustrations of overseas suffering of Christians or even of those here in America who have cases before the US Supreme Court?
5. In verse 10 Paul talks about being delivered from deadly peril. Paul's deliverance was not always by escape. Read 2 Corinthians 11:20-28. How can we stay steadfast even when we are overwhelmed by our afflictions and suffering? What are some ways God delivers us?

Connect in Community:

1. What is your experience with the relationship between suffering and affliction in your life enabling you to comfort others? (verses 3-4). Give an example of how God has used your suffering to bring comfort to another person.

2. In light of Paul's testimony in verses 8-10, how do you relate to his conclusion that suffering made him rely on God and not himself? What have you learned from suffering?
3. Paul asks the saints to pray for him. He says, help us by prayer. What part does prayer play in our suffering and in comforting others?

(NOTE: One practical way you can put this passage into practice is to allow time to have your group respond and open up about the things each person is struggling with. Ask the question: What are you struggling with right now? And make sure to save time to pray over each person and their struggles.)

Live on Mission:

1. Paul had a call on his life to suffer in preaching the gospel, and he praised God in it all. Remarkable. Is there one practical step you can take this week in being intentional about bringing up Jesus to people in conversations? Anticipate your upcoming meetings, if possible, and how the discussion may have an opportunity to build common ground and/or to ask a question that can lead to a God conversation.