

Intro to 2 Corinthians

I. Christians will face troubles

- a. At times, God comforts by delivering us out of trouble
- b. Other times, God comforts by strengthening us to endure our troubles
- c. In all cases, we are stewards of any comfort we receive

2. Troubles are tools in the hands of a loving God

- a. They teach us dependence on God
- b. They teach us interdependence upon the body of Christ

For Further Study and Reflection:

Trusting God by Jerry Bridges

The Story of Reality by Gregory Koukl

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

With Christ in the School of Prayer by Andrew Murray

Small Group Questions:

1. What is the occasion for 2 Corinthians?
2. How is it unique from some of Paul's other letters?
3. Read Acts 19:23-41 for a description of some of the suffering endured by the Apostle Paul while he was in between Corinthian visits. Additionally, read some of the other struggles Paul endured in his ministry (2 Cor. 11:16-33)
4. How does Paul feel about these sufferings he endured? Do they disqualify his ministry as an Apostle, or cause him to question God's calling?
5. How does God use trouble in the lives of believers?
6. How have you been comforted by God through affliction? How have you been comforted by others? How is prayer a ministry of comfort?