2 Corinthian Series: “Learning to Lean on God”
“The God of All Comfort”
David Owens
2 Corinthians 1:1-11
1.17.10

Introduction:
A. 2 Corinthians is, perhaps, Paul’s _____ letter to them.
B. In this opening section, Paul defends himself against the false charges that his _____ were God’s ________ for his sin and unfaithfulness.

I. _____________ the Word.
A. The opening greeting follows a pattern.
   1. Identify the ________.
   2. Identify the ________.
   3. Offer a ________.
B. Paul’s main theme comes through loud and clear—__________.
C. A second theme acts as a counterpart to the first—__________.
D. So Paul begins by _______ God for the very thing his opponents maintain calls his ministry into question—his ________.
E. Paul’s hope for them is certain because he knows that our sufferings cannot ________ God’s ________.
F. Paul’s experience of God’s deliverance in the _______ points to God’s deliverance in the ________, which results in God’s comfort in the ________.

II. _____________ the Word.
A. Lessons:
   1. Life is full of ________.
   2. God is ____________.
   3. God can use our ________ for ________.
B. Although we cannot understand fully God’s ultimate intent in the tragic events of life, it is possible to _______ God in ________ circumstance. (Rom. 8:28)
C. There is no telling what ________ things can come out of the ________ things that happen to us.
D. A favorite illustration of the purpose of suffering is the illustration of the ________.
E. It is the ________ in life that help us to become ____ we can be.