

Message Notes

August 14, 2005

The Life of Paul: Suffering
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Pastor Steve Patzia

- ◆ Sometimes _____ comes as part of God's sovereign _____.

Paul's Experience With Suffering

- ◆ Paul _____ firsthand what it meant to _____. (2 Cor 11:16-33)

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)**

- ◆ God _____ Satan to give him a "_____ in the flesh". (2 Cor 12:7)

- ◆ How Paul _____ suffering is a _____ for all believers. (Phil 4:12)

Why God Allows Suffering

- ◆ God uses suffering to _____ our true _____. (Job 1-2; Jms 1:2-3)

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors...Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed. **James 1:2-3, 4b (MSG)**

- ◆ Suffering _____ us into the people God wants us to _____.

- ◆ God uses suffering to _____ His _____ in our _____: it helps us _____ solely on His _____. (Gen 50:19-20; Heb 12:10)

- ◆ God uses suffering to _____ us _____ to Him. (2 Cor 12:9)

- ◆ In suffering, God holds us _____ in His _____. (Dt 1:29-31)

The Eternal Perspective

We share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **Romans 8:17b-18 (NIV)**

- ◆ While _____ may persist in this _____, it will _____ last throughout _____. (2 Cor 4:17-18; 2 Pet 5:10; Rev 7:16-17)

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