

God's Message for Today's Church

(Sunday September 6th 2020 with Gympie Baptist Church)

Today we look at the last question asked by you the congregation regarding concerns that you have around all that is happening, as a result of the Covid pandemic. The specific question we are addressing this morning has been framed this way, “Why Do Christians suffer and how should they respond”? The bible gives many answers to this two-pronged question and these are all very important to know and understand. With the limited time I have this morning I will endeavour to outline from the scriptures the following: 1) Some of the major reasons Christians suffer; 2) The reality of this being somewhat normative for all Christians from the “get-go”; 3) What Paul says about the purpose of Christian suffering as taken from 2 Corinthians Chapter 1:1-11.

1) Christian Suffering?

2) It's the Same Old Story From the “get-go”!

3) “Milking” Your Difficulties for your Good and Everyone else's including God's, for this is His purpose.

A key passage for answering this morning's question is found in 2nd Corinthians Chapter 1:1-11

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God of All Comfort

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction,
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in
Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for
your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when
you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know
that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we
were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we
had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who
raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set
our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks
on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Some Immediate Application: Our response through praise and prayer to God's Word today.

➤ A New Old Song of Praise!

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”. Written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
The King of creation
O my soul, praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation

All ye who hear
Now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings
Yea, so gently sustaineth

Hast thou not seen
How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here
Daily attend thee

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
If with His love he befriend thee

Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath
Come now with praises before Him

Let the amen
Sound from His people again
Gladly forever adore Him. [Repeat]

(Closing In a Renewed and Informed Response through Prayer)

Keeping it Real by Going Deeper!

(GBC Sunday September 6th 2020 - Ps Tony R)

The Passage & The Message: 2nd Corinthians chapter 1:1-11

Open in Prayer:

... asking God to show you your true self this day and for God to show himself again through these words of His apostle Paul.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday we looked at our final question that was asked by you the congregation regarding concerns that you have around all that is happening as a result of the Covid pandemic. The specific question we addressed was framed this way, “[Why Do Christians suffer and how should they respond](#)”? The bible gives many answers to this two-pronged question and these are all very important to know and understand. For our purpose, I chose to address this question under the following headings and themes. What from anyone of these points is most memorable for you and why is that?

- Christian Suffering?
- It's the Same Old Story From the “get-go”!
- “Milking” Your Difficulties for your Good and Everyone else's including God's, for this is His purpose.

Going Deeper:

A key passage for addressing the question of “[Why Do Christians suffer and how should they respond](#)”? is 2nd Corinthians Chapter 1:1-11

Please read this passage through asking yourself the following SPLAT questions:

What **STOOD OUT** to you?

What **PUZZLES** you?

What do we **LEARN** about God and his people?

How might this **APPLY**?

What will you **TALK** to God or others about?

2nd Corinthians Chapter 1:1-11

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **4** who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. **5** For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. **6** If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. **7** Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. **9** Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. **10** He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. **11** You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

[YOUR NOTES & THOUGHTS:](#)

Prayer

Please take some time to pray for each other and the broader fellowship of GBC, which you are a part of, on God's Mission to live for His Glory, our joy and sanctification and for the salvation of the lost.

Grace and Peace to you as we '[Keep it Real by Going Deeper](#)' by taking both God's and our concerns to Him through prayer.