

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Corinth, America, and Paul

- The _____ of Corinth and modern America.
- The _____ Paul and the Corinthians.

Paul's Example for Christian Living

- The introductory verses focus readers on _____.
- Comfort is _____.
- Comfort is _____.
- Suffering serves the purpose of teaching believers _____
_____ (Eccl 7:2).

Four Important Lessons

- God's power does not always manifest in _____.
- Human weakness is the _____, and suffering is the
_____ of God's power and glory.
- The gospel does not ride on health, wealth, or appealing to our culture's desire for entertainment.
- Paul gives us a strategy for coping with _____.

Life Enrichment

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Do you have a historic speech, quote, or a heroic action that inspires you? Why does it inspire you?
- What are some ways that Corinth and modern America are the same? Why does it matter?
- Why do you think Paul's hardships, the persecutions he faced, and his physical illness would pose a problem for the Corinthians?
- Are suffering, hardship, and our spiritual condition connected? How?
- Why do you think we find it easy to assume that a pain free life indicates God's blessing and hardship indicates His displeasure?
- How does Paul serve as an example of Christian living for all believers?
- What does it mean to be comforted by God? How is that different from what we typically think of as comfort?
- What lessons do suffering and hardship teach us?
- How is God at work in and through the troubles Christians face?
- Why do you think God chooses our weaknesses (2Cor 12:9-10) as the vehicle for His strength? What does that look like in daily life?