

Myths And Truths About Suffering

Date: November 21, 2009

Text: 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

1. Three Myths About Suffering

- a) *Good* things happen to *good* Christians.
- b) *Bad* things do not happen to *good* Christians.
- c) *Good* prayers by *good* Christians take away *bad* things.

2. II Corinthians 12: 7-10

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.

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3. Three Truths About Suffering

- a) God prospers those who seek Him on an internal level.
- b) Suffering is part of the Christian life.
- c) We should pray and trust God in all things.

4. What does God promise?

- a) He is with us.
- b) He is all powerful and able and all things that happens to us are processed thru His loving hands.
- c) He will provide for our needs as He sees them.
- d) He will not allow us to undergo a trial that we can not handle by His strength.
- e) God is using all things, the good-the bad-and the ugly, to make us more like Jesus.

f) God is asking us to trust Him in the process.

5. TAKE-AWAY:

PRAY/TRUST/CHOOSE to make God's grace sufficient.