

Comfort in Trouble

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 1:3-11.

B. One of the preoccupations of our culture is the question why bad things happen to good people.

C. This has to do with the fact that people do not recognize that they live in a sin-filled world.

D. Bad things do not happen to "good people," but bad things do happen to God's people.

II. Bad things happen to God's people to determine whether their faith is a lasting faith. (II Chronicles 33:31)

III. Bad things happen to God's people to wean them from the world. (John 6:6, Hebrews 11)

IV. Bad things happen to God's people to call them to a heavenly hope of the glories to come. (Romans 5, Hebrews 12, II Corinthians 1)

V. Bad things happen to God's people to show them what they really love.

VI. Bad things happen to God's people to teach us obedience. (Hebrews 12:11)

VII. Bad things happen to God's people to show them His goodness.

VIII. Bad things happen to God's people to develop their spiritual strength.

IX. Bad things happen to God's people to enable them to help others in trial. (Luke 22:21)

X. Bad things happen to God's people to display His astounding power.

A. The God of all comfort comforts in all of our afflictions.

B. This happens when the persecution is for Christ's sake.

C. God may bring a believer to his limits--to the place where he has no power--in order to glorify Himself.

Application questions:

1. Which explanation for bad things happening to God's people struck you the most? What stood out to you about it?

2. How would you respond to someone who argues that God could not be good if bad falls on those who follow on Him?

3. How have you learned God's goodness through personal hardship or the hardship of others? Explain.
