

Sermon Notes

The God of Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Intro: two ministry newsletters... ...one grim, one glamorous

Q: Paul isn't hiding how bad his suffering has been (v8): ... why?

**Suffering doesn't disqualify people for authentic ministry...
...it can actually help to equip them**

How?

1. Suffering enables us to know the God of comfort more deeply

(v1,3,8-10)

*(This isn't automatic; requires turning Godward in suffering...
...but it is true)*

2. Suffering equips us to share God's comfort more widely

(v1-7)

*(This isn't automatic; requires turning outward in service...
...but it is precious)*

3. Suffering extends opportunities to partner in prayer

(v11)

*(This isn't automatic; requires asking for prayer in suffering
...but leads to thanksgiving!)*