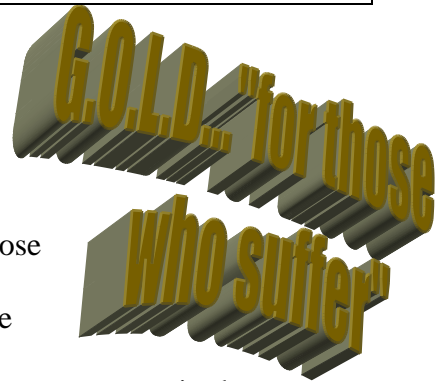


SERMON SUMMARY

Date: August 12, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Topic: Grasping Our Lord's Desire... For The Suffering People In The World	

Can suffering play a useful role in a person's life? How should the Christian treat suffering? The matter of suffering and some of the pressing concerns of life are given significant treatment in 2nd Corinthians. In our focus passage we shall find that the:

- Greeting at the start is indicative of the Elevation of those called to be the Church.
- Glory offered to God is indicative of the Evaluation the church should make of her circumstances.
- Guidance offered to the church is indicative of the Engagement required by the church both with God and fellow believers.



In verses 1-2, we see the Salutation to the Called of God. Paul is alluding to:

- Appointment by God (verse 1a)
- Awareness in God (verse 1b)
- Assets in God (verse 2)

This is a call to understand the status of God's people. We ought to harbor proper thoughts of each other because God recognizes each of us.

Exaltations to the God of all comfort is spoken of in verses 3-7, as we see the:

- person being shown (3)
- purpose being shown (4)
- passage being shown (5-6)
- peace being shown (7)

This is a call to understand the solace in God's plan. This demands that we hold on to the promises of God because God has resources for each of us.

Verses 8-11 speak of the explanation of Complement in God, where we see:

- Reliance beyond Self (8-9)
- Rescue not by Self (10)
- Rejoicing through prayers of the Saints (11)

This is a call to understand the support in God's partnership. We need to humbly participate in the kingdom because the fact is that God has a role for each of us.

While suffering should never be courted, we should never allow it to chain us. Instead, when present, we should let it clear the way for us to see our lack of self-sufficiency and need of reliance on God and each other. Let us therefore allow suffering to drive us to our knees and our 'koinonia' (fellowship with each other in Christ).