



Sunday Sermon Notes: September 13, 2020

God's Peace in my Pain – 2 Cor 12:1-10

I. My God can raise me up! v 1-6

- In his highest moment, Paul saw:
 - Visions about what was **to come**.
 - Revelations of the Divine **mystery**.
 - Heaven **itself!**

II. My God can humble me – v 7-8

- Why does suffering come?
 - Suffering may be of my own making. Thus, I shouldn't **blame God**.
 - Suffering shows my confidence in **God's goodness**.
 - Suffering can be a tool for building **Christlike character**
- Five options on how to suffer:
 - Ignore suffering. Pretend it **doesn't exist**.
 - Suffer angrily - Become **bitter and hard**.
 - Suppress suffering - By **stoicism**.
 - Blame God in suffering - For his failure to **protect you**.
 - Embrace suffering – God's will **over mine**.

III. My God sustains and strengthens me with His grace and peace – v. 9-10

- God's grace and peace are SUFFICIENT for me when I:
 - Rest in the grace He's shown to the millions who have **come before**.
 - Find God's Word sufficient to ease **my burden**.
 - Trusting God's grace and peace is easier than trying to **assemble the puzzle alone**.
- God's grace and peace TRANSFORMS me when I:
 - Acknowledge Christ suffered too. He knows your pain and hasn't **lost you in the process**.
 - Recognizing suffering is not a detour – it's a part of God's **refining process for me**.
 - Embrace not all sickness is caused by **sin**.
 - Allow suffering to alter what I call **treasure**.
- God's grace and peace STRENGTHENS me when I:
 - Keep the tension between what's now and what will be. When you choose one over the other, strength becomes **hard to find**.
 - Recognize physical afflictions don't have to be a limitation **to serving God**.
 - Choose Joy over circumstances. Suffering won't last but Christ's joy **is eternal!**