

## Serving in the midst of suffering 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

### **Pursuing Christ despite the conditions:**

Are we waiting for comfort, or things to go back to “normal” to pursue Christ?

What was the norm for believers during the NT? (2 Corinthians 6:4-5, 11:24-29)

- Paul and other believers didn't wait for the right conditions to serve God! (1 Timothy 1:12-16)

**Our Mission:** to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20). Ambassadors don't work in their own country. They dwell in a foreign land for the duration of their mission. As Christians, we are here in this world only temporarily, but God has given us work to do!

How do we become ambassadors for Christ? Only through the work of Christ on the Cross! (2 Cor 5:21)

We work **together** (2 Cor 6:1) with God in two ways:

1. **Evangelism:** Literally means to proclaim the gospel. We appeal and urge people to not receive the grace of God in vain. We do this with the power of the gospel, not lofty speech or wisdom (1 Cor 2:1-2) and we believe it has power (Rom 1:16). God uses believers to spread the gospel, hence we work with Him! (Rom 10:14-17)

We also urge because the grace of God will not always be around for the lost to accept! (Gen 6:3, Hos 5:6, Isa 55:6-7, Heb 12:15-17)

2. **Sanctification:** (Obedience to Christ in increasing measure as we mature in our relationship with Him)

We are called to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12-13, 2 Cor 6:6-7). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to glorify God in our actions. But we still participate and make real choices to be obedient.

We have the perfect example to imitate in Christ! (Phil 2:7)

### **The hope to carry out our mission:**

What suffering we might go through here will never compare to being in perfection with Jesus in eternity (Rom 8:16-18). Having this mindset motivates us and helps us suffer well in obedience.

### **The paradox of the Christian life:**

Christians may be slandered, unknown, dying, punished, put through sorrowful conditions and poor **in this life**, But we will be Glorified, well known, alive in Christ, rejoicing and rich in the grace and knowledge of Jesus for **all of eternity!** To have Christ is to have the greatest treasure!

**Worship:** God Omniscient, God All Knowing (Matt Boswell) His Mercy is More (Matt Boswell)  
Be Thou My Vision (Norton Hall Band)