

## WEEK 9 WE ARE ABOUT CONNECTING

June 4, 2017

IN ALL THINGS AND AT ALL TIMES, BELIEVERS/ JESUS FOLLOWERS ARE TO BE ABOUT CONNECTING OTHERS TO GOD  
AS BELIEVERS WE ARE CHANNELS AND NOT CONTAINERS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS  
WE ARE NOT THE END OR GOAL OF GOD'S ACTIVITY

*I want you to know, my friends, that the things that have happened to me have really helped the progress of the gospel.*

**Philippians 1:12 (GNT)**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup> Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. <sup>7</sup> And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NKJV)**

### GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

COMFORT—"PARAKALEO"—"TO CALL ALONGSIDE OF"

NEVER THINK THAT TROUBLE IS AN ACCIDENT

SUFFER BECAUSE WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

HUMAN SUFFERING—SICKNESS AND DISEASE

OUR OWN SIN AND REBELLION

THE SIN OF OTHERS

NATURAL DISASTER

EVERYTHING IS A DIVINE APPOINTMENT

THREE POSSIBLE OUTLOOKS A PERSON CAN TAKE WHEN IT COMES TO THE TRIALS OF LIFE

"FATE" OR "CHANCE" ONLY RECOURSE IS TO GIVE UP

IF WE HAVE TO CONTROL EVERYTHING OURSELVES, THEN THE SITUATION IS EQUALLY AS HOPELESS

BUT IF *GOD* IS IN CONTROL AND WE TRUST HIM, THEN WE CAN OVERCOME CIRCUMSTANCES WITH HIS HELP

"It is in the catastrophes and crises that we discover the mighty power of God."

### HE COMES ALONGSIDE US SO THAT HE MIGHT COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

THE TRANSITION IS VERSE 4 "THAT"—SO THAT

WE ARE NOT CONTAINERS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS BUT CHANNELS

PAUL EXPERIENCED TROUBLE AS PREPARATION FOR SOMETHING HE WAS GOING TO DO—MINISTER TO OTHERS IN NEED

LET GOD FINISH—PERFECT—USE WHAT HE HAS DONE TO BRING YOU THROUGH YOUR PAIN TO SERVE OTHERS—  
CONNECT THEM TO THE SOURCE OF COMFORT

THE END (GOAL, CONCLUSION, COMPLETION) OF SUFFERING FOR THE JESUS FOLLOWER IS GOD'S BLESSING

CONCLUSION: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME . . .

IS IT A STATEMENT OF DEFEAT OR A STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY?