

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

5-4-14 Ken Carlton

Title: SUFFERING BY DESIGN

Main Text: 2 Corinthians overview

Sermon Description: The Change of tone in II Corinthians chapter 10 has caused critics to doubt the cohesiveness of the letter through the years. This shift in Paul's focus makes perfect sense, however, when one considers the basic structure of the epistle. Paul gives the prescription (suffering my design) followed by the diagnosis (self-serving apostasy). Evidently this exhortation was difficult for Corinth, as history records yet further rebuke from Clement of Rome in the late first century for this church's lingering obstinance. II Corinthians is a difficult and necessary message for the church even (if not especially) today!

HEADING: OUR SOVEREIGN GOD PRESCRIBES SUFFERING AS...

1. A CALL FOR MUTUAL RELIANCE ON THE RESURRECTOR. (II Cor 1:3-11)

- a. Compassion equipment
- b. Reliance on God
- c. Multiplication of praise

2. A SHOWCASE OF VICARIOUS POWER. (II Cor 4:7-15)

- a. Definition: 'vicarious'
- b. Surpassing power
- c. Crucifixion object lesson

3. A BELLWETHER OF FUTURE GLORY. (II Cor 4:16-5:9)

- a. Definition: 'bellwether'
- b. Momentary vs. eternal
- c. Tent vs. house

4. A COMMENDATION OF THE SERVANT-HEARTED. (II Cor 6:2-11)also II Cor 11:23-30

- a. Assault
- b. Defense
- c. Vindication

5. A SIGNAL OF INSPIRATIONAL AFFECTIONS. (II Cor 8:1-7)

- a. Strategically positioned
- b. Positive illustration
- c. *Martyr's memorial

6. A TEMPERING GRACE. (II Cor 12:7-10)

- a. Definition: 'temper'
- b. Surprising strength
- c. Communion application

Conclusion: Isaiah 53:10-12 records the quintessential scriptural example of suffering by design. Communion this morning identifies us with the sufferings of Christ afresh today. May this means of grace enable us to take up our cross and follow Him... no matter how penetrating the splinters.

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Reliance on God	Theme: Surpassing power	Theme: Future glory	Theme: Commendation	Theme: Inspiring example	Theme: Weakness & strength
Verses: II Cor 1:3-11	Verses: II Cor 4:7-15	Verses: II Cor 4:16-5:9	Verses: II Cor 6:2-11	Verses: II Cor 8:1-7	Verses: II Cor 12:7-10