

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: If God is really in control, why do bad things happen to Godly people? How can an Almighty God who is good, allow so much suffering in the lives of those He loves? Why does it often feel like evil is winning, darkness is prevailing, and God isn't answering our desperate prayers for rescue. What could we possibly learn from all this? This is a Study of God's Sovereignty, People's Suffering, and the Salvation of the Redeemed.

**There's nothing more sure in life than suffering,
and
There's nothing more shaping in life than suffering.**

Job 2:11-13 (ESV) Job 16:2 (ESV)

Three Types of Comfort for Suffering Friends:

- **Bad Comfort – Assuming You Know Why.** Job 4:1-8; 5:1-7 (ESV)

A suffering friend is not a problem to solve, but a person to serve.

- **Better Comfort – Remind Your Soul Who's in Control** Job 6:1-10; 13:15 (ESV)

The praise of the praiseworthy is above all rewards!

- **Best Comfort – Conduits of Jesus.** 1 Corinthians 1:3-7 (ESV)

The Best Comfort is a mixture of Truth, Tears and Time.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) How has your life been shaped by suffering? How has God grown you through seasons of difficulty and sorrow? Would you say you are currently in a season of suffering? Explain.
- 3) Read Job 2:11-13 and 16:2. Have you ever experienced what you would call '*miserable comforting*' from well-intended friends? What was the result?
- 4) Read Job 13:15 and Psalm 42:5. How naturally do you remind yourself that God is Good and worthy of your complete trust? Who do you know that does this well?
- 5) Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-7. Have you ever experienced Christlike comfort from others? Do you feel like you've been able to provide it to others? Are you ready to now? How do you know?