Trials + Persecution
1 Thessalonians 3:1-10

Slide 1:

How do we respond when hard times comes?

Slide 2: Truths about our Trials

Suffering can shake our stability (vs. 1-3)

Your particular trial doesn't matter as much as how you respond to it.

"God will take care of what you go through; you take care of how you go through it." - D.A. Carson

Slide 3: Truth about our Trials

God Has Purpose in Our Trials (3b)

"we were destined" = "your hard times were placed here by God."

Everything that comes to you has already passed through the hands of God and has received His approval.

Slide 4: Truth about Our Trials

We Should Expect Difficulty (4)

Suffering is a mark of discipleship, something that is guaranteed for the follower of Christ.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." 1 Peter 4:12:

Slide 5: Truth about Our Trials

Hard Times Challenge Our Endurance (vs 5)

Slide 6: We are Tempted in 3 Main Ways

1. To doubt God's goodness - God has forgotten us, that He doesn't care, and that He isn't good.

2. To retaliate against others with anger and resentment.

3. To give in to despair and discouragement.

Slide 7: Truth about Our Trials

We can overcome our trials by faith (vs 6)

"But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you."

- This is the only time Paul ever used the term "good news"

Slide 8: We can overcome our trials by faith (vs 7)

HOW? Faith in God's

Character—that He is good and makes no mistakes

Word - that it is true no matter what happens to us

Purpose - that He is conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ

Promise - that He will never give us more than we can bear

Presence - that He is with us in the darkest moments of life

Power - that He can deliver us from every temptation

Slide 9: Truth about Our Trials

Others will be encouraged as we stand firm (7-9)

Slide 10: How does Paul pray for the Thessalonians

1. Pray Frequently - "Night and day we pray…(vs. 10)

2. Pray earnestly - "…we pray most earnestly." = "super abundantly."

3. Pray specifically. "…that we may seen you again…now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you."

Slide 11: What to Pray for Others

1. For faith to mature.

2. For love to increase.

3. For lives to be holy.