

What's Good about Bad Times?

Acts 14:21-22 *They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.*

Introduction

1. The Road to Heaven's Glory

- 1.1 What we expect what we experience
- 1.2 The price for change to a Missional Church

2. Proposition

Through faith, hardship strengthens and matures us

What Does the Bible Mean? (2 Cor. 1:3-7)

1. Paul in Asia

- 1.1 Greek *thipsis* = pressure (together), affliction, trouble, hardship
- 1.2 Paul's list(1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:3-13; 12:10)

2. Jesus' Teaching

- 1.1 Matt 13:21; 24:9,21,29; John 16:33)
- 1.2 Through endurance you will overcome (Luke 21:16-19)

God's Purpose and Process (Rom. 5:3-5)

1. The Blessings of Justification

- 1.1 Peace, access, hope, joy, love
- 1.2 A new attitude to life and its pressures

2. The Process

- 2.1 Suffering; perseverance (Luke 21:16-19); character (proven); hope; joy; love
- 2.2 2 Pet. 1:5-7

Conclusion

1. Paul (Acts 20:23)

2. Saints (Rev. 7:14-17)

3. Prayer for patience and joy

Ron's Quote:

*“There is an inner resilience that comes from the Spirit of God,
And if your heart is surrendered to Him,
He will enable you to overcome”*

*“God is more concerned with shaping you
than making you comfortable”*