

Big Idea: In Christ, we have hope in our suffering.

Introduction

- A. The reality we all share? The experience of _____ and _____.

- B. When those go unmet, it produces a sense of _____.

I. Expect Suffering

- A. As Christians, we are *not* _____ from trials.

- B. _____ is not a 'fast pass' through trials.
 - 1. You will experience trials of _____ kinds.
 - a) We rejoice, not in this, but in our future _____.

- C. A living _____.
 - 1. _____

 - 2. _____

 - 3. _____

- D. Things are not always going _____.

II. SUFFERING IS TEMPORARY & NECESSARY

"In this you rejoice... though now for a _____... if _____..."

A. Suffering is:

1. _____ (it won't last forever)
2. _____ (God uses it)
3. Trials reveal the genuineness of our _____.

B. 2 Corinthians 4:17 "For this light momentary affliction is _____ us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

1. God uses trials as a _____ process.

C. Philippians 1:29 "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ, you should not only believe in him but also _____ for his sake."

III. Our Hope is in Christ

A. Peter was the Apostle of _____.

1. His epistle is a letter of _____ to the believer.

B. The Greek word for 'various' is *poikilos*.

1. Meaning _____
 - a. ex) _____ and salvation through the _____ of sins.
2. Our suffering will one day be turned into _____.

C. 2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same _____, from one degree of glory to another."

Take Away - God the Father, will continue the refining process in all of us, until he is able to see the reflection of Christ in and through our faith.