

Living in Light of Christ's Return

Growing Through the Dark Times

2 Thess 2:13-17 (page 821); 2 Cor 1:1-11 (page 801)

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Frank Mascaro

Five things to r e m e m b e r about pain and trouble in my life:

- God uses it *personally* – to develop my f a i t h (Jas 1:2-4)
- God uses it *vertically* – so that I may learn o b e d i e n c e (Heb 5:8)
- God uses it *horizontally* – so I might learn h u m i l i t y (2 Cor 12:7)
- God uses it *doctrinally* – to e x p o s e e r r o r in my thinking (1 Cor 5:9-12; 11:17-32)
- God uses it *ultimately* – so that I will g l o r i f y Him (1 Pet 4:12-16)

Four ways that I can h e l p others who are suffering (2 Thess 2:13-17)

- Compassionately a f f i r m their v a l u e (v 13a; Phil 1:3-6)
- R e m i n d them of God's f a i t h f u l n e s s (vs 13b-14; Rom 8:31-39)
- R e m i n d them of God's t r u t h (v 15; 2 Tim 3:12-17)
- P r a y for them (vs 16-17; Eph 6:18)

Three ways I g r o w through pain and trouble (2 Cor 1:1-11)

- I am e q u i p p e d to c o m f o r t others in their afflictions (vs 3-4)
- I grow in my d e p e n d e n c e on G o d (vs 8-9)
- I learn to be t h a n k f u l for e v e r y t h i n g that God a l l o w s in my life (vs 10-11)

Taking it all in....

Has today's message given you a different perspective about pain and suffering in your life? In what way or ways?

Has God used others to help you during a difficult time in your life? What was one thing you remember most about their concern for you?

If you are going through a difficult time now, what do you think God wants you to learn?

What have you learned from God the last time you went through some challenging times?