

“UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING”

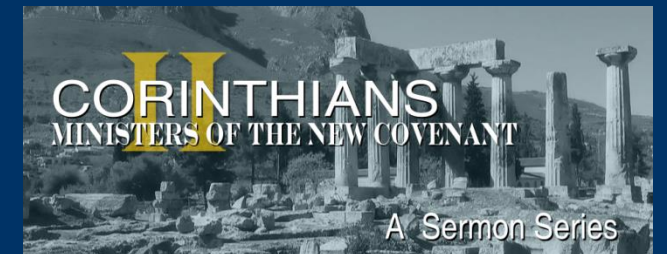
(2 Corinthians 1:1-11)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 1

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: June 4, 2017

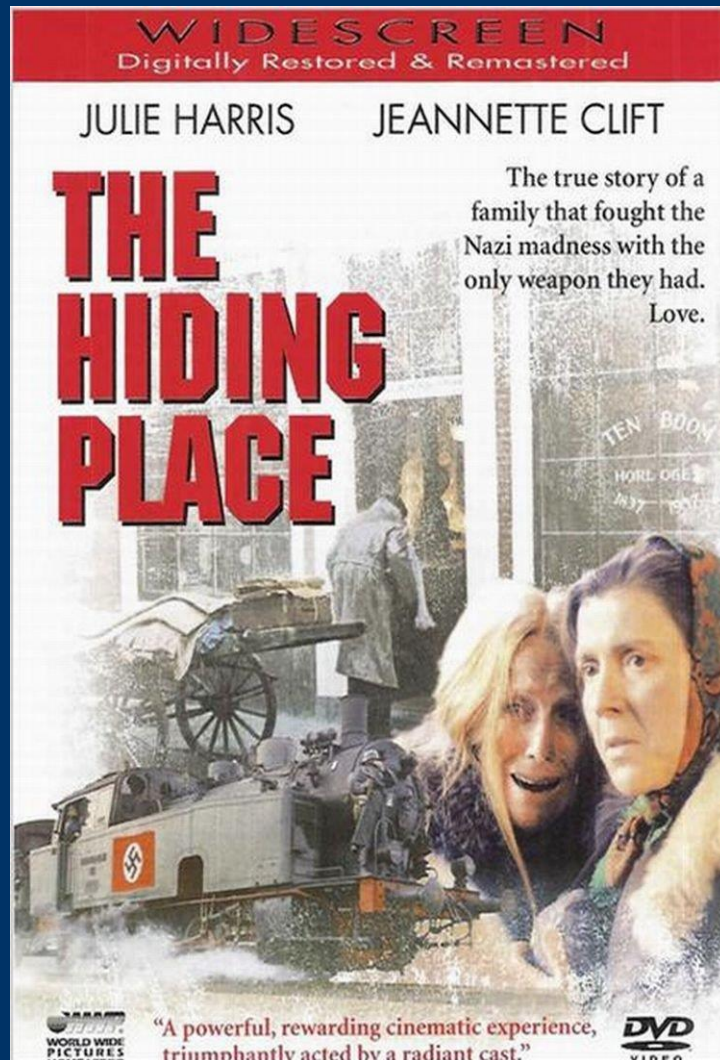
Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



A true story of unraveling the mystery of love and suffering



"If your God is a God of love, why do you think your God send you here?"

Why?

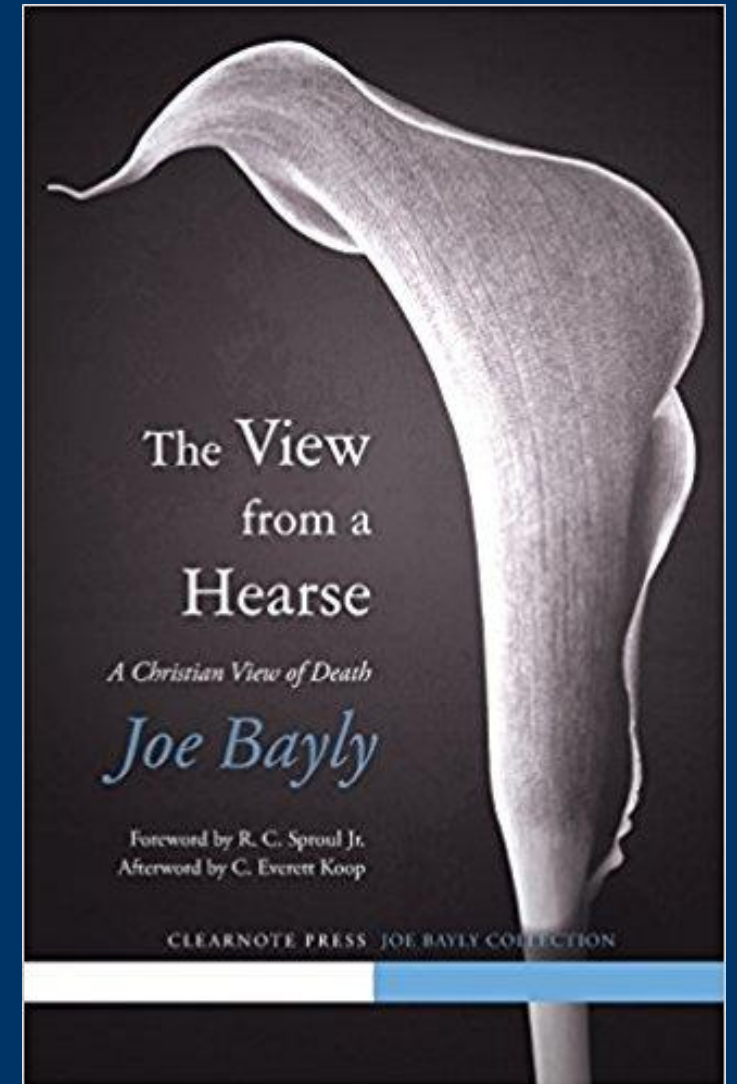
and why do you think your God of love send you here?



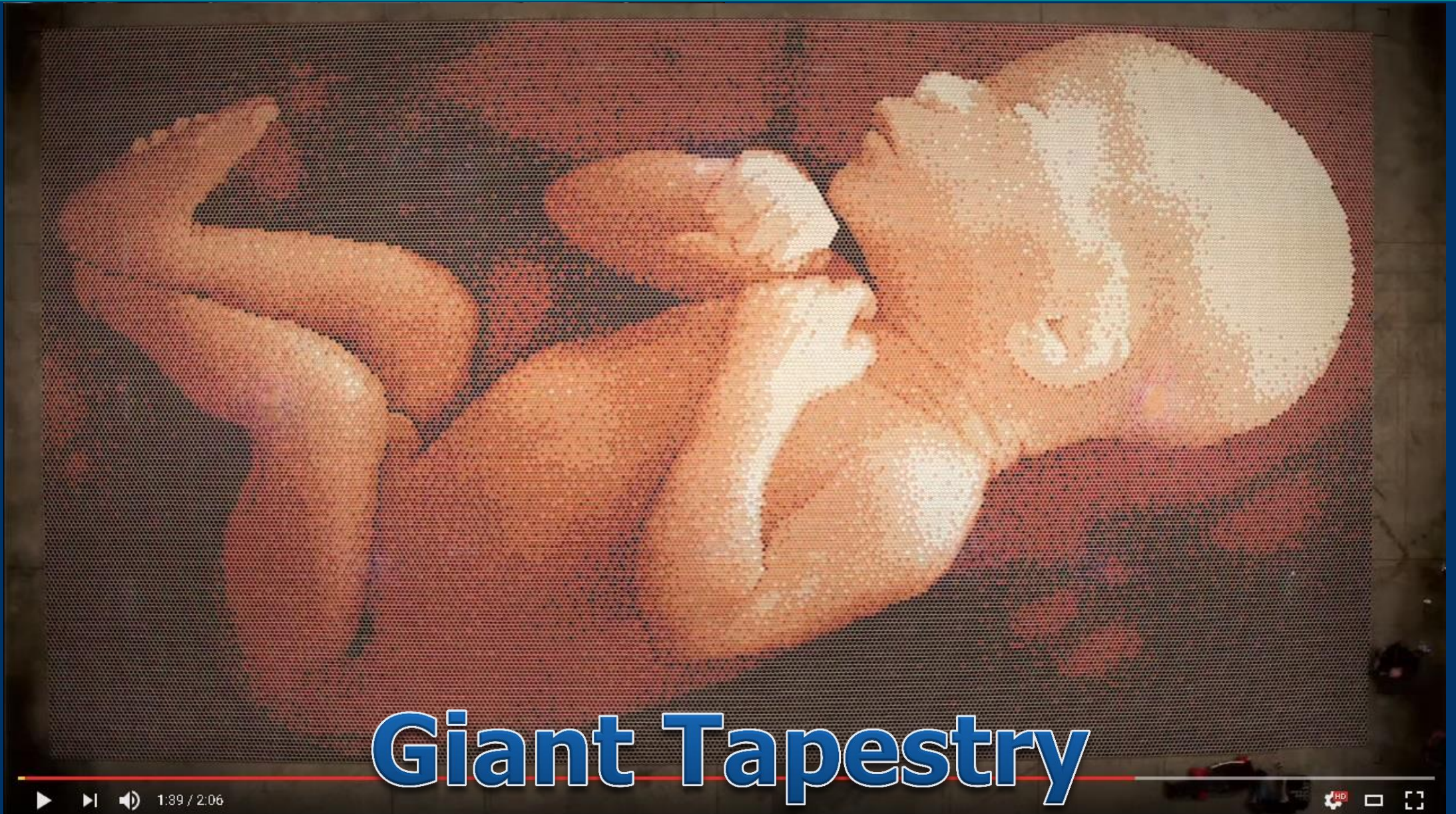
I. SUFFERING: UNDERSTANDING ITS REALITY

“Death is the supreme enigma. We cannot explain its mystery and the unknown makes us fear. This mystery is greatest in a generation whose stance toward death is denial.”

Joe Bayly



I. SUFFERING: UNDERSTANDING ITS REALITY



Giant Tapestry

II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

A) Warm Words of Introduction



Paul's Credentials

*2 Cor 1:1 Paul, **an apostle** of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia:*

Paul's Recipients

It was written to believers at Corinth and then forwarded to believers through the region of Achaia.

Paul's Greetings

*2 Cor 1:2 **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation



*2 Cor 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the **God of all comfort**,⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

Parakletos
'Para' + 'kaleo'
Comforter



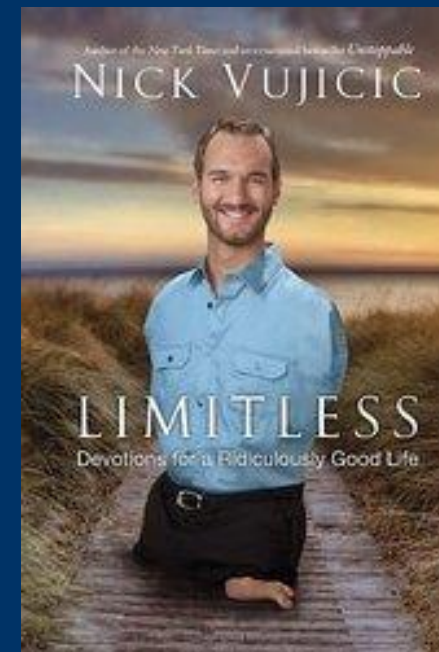
II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation

1. That we might be prepared to comfort others.



"It's better to build each other up than to tear each other down." –Nick Vujicic



II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation



1. That we might be prepared to comfort others.

2 Cor 1:5 *For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.*

2 Cor 1:6 *If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*



II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

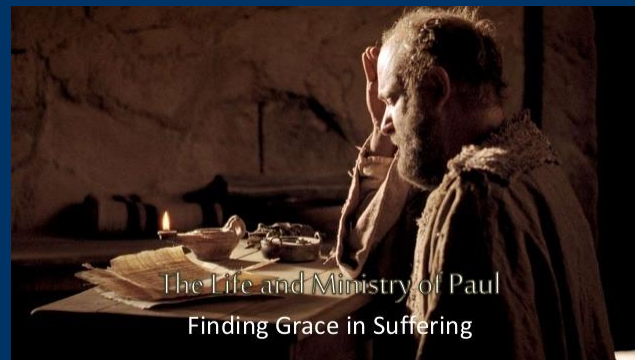
B) Wise Words of Explanation



1. That we might be prepared to comfort others.

2 Cor 1:8 *We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. **9a** Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.*

Paul's Testimony



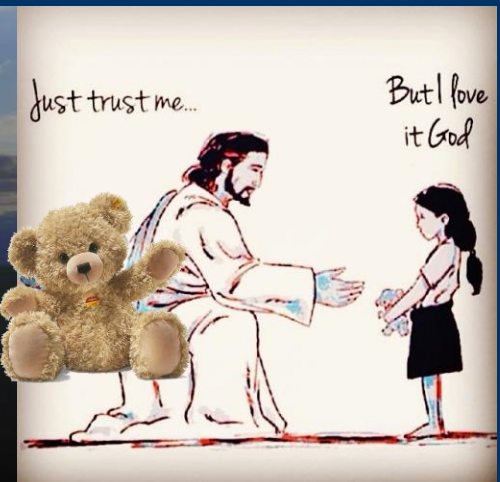
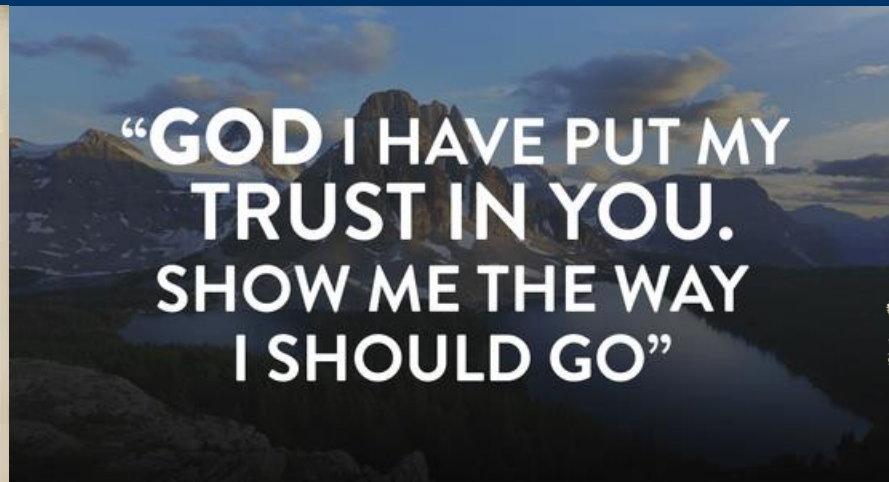
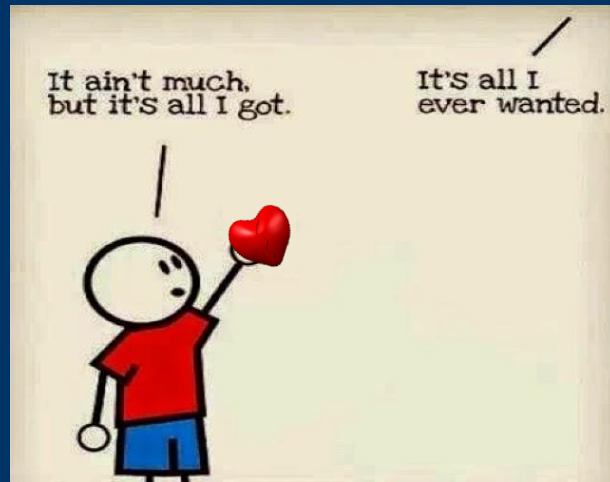
II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation



2. That we might not trust in ourselves.

2 Cor 1:9 *Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.*



II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation



2. That we might not trust in ourselves.

Pro. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

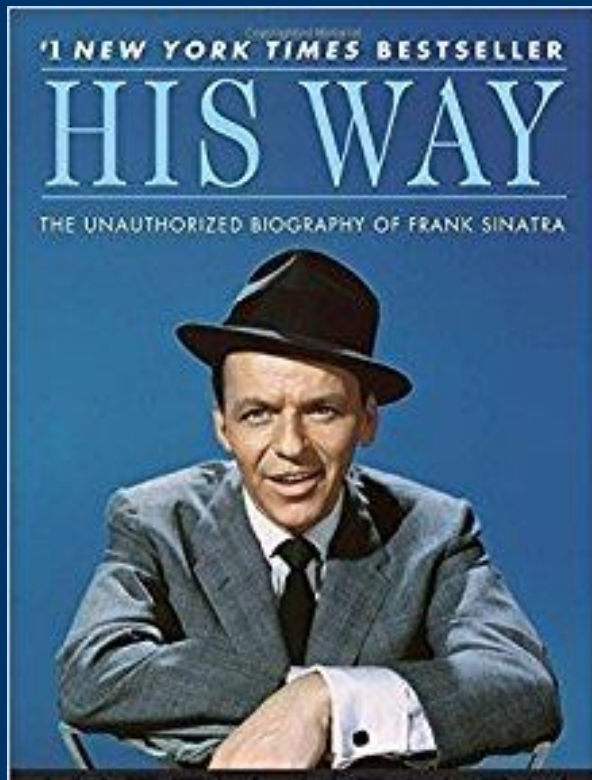


**“Do-it-yourself
philosophy”**

II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation

2. That we might not trust in ourselves.



*And now, the end is near;
And so I face the final curtain.
My friend, I'll say it clear;
I state my case, of which I am certain.
I've lived a life that's full.
I've traveled each and every highway.
And more, much more than this
I did it my way.*

II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation

2. That we might not trust in ourselves.



***Jer 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*



II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation



3. That we might learn to give thanks in everything.

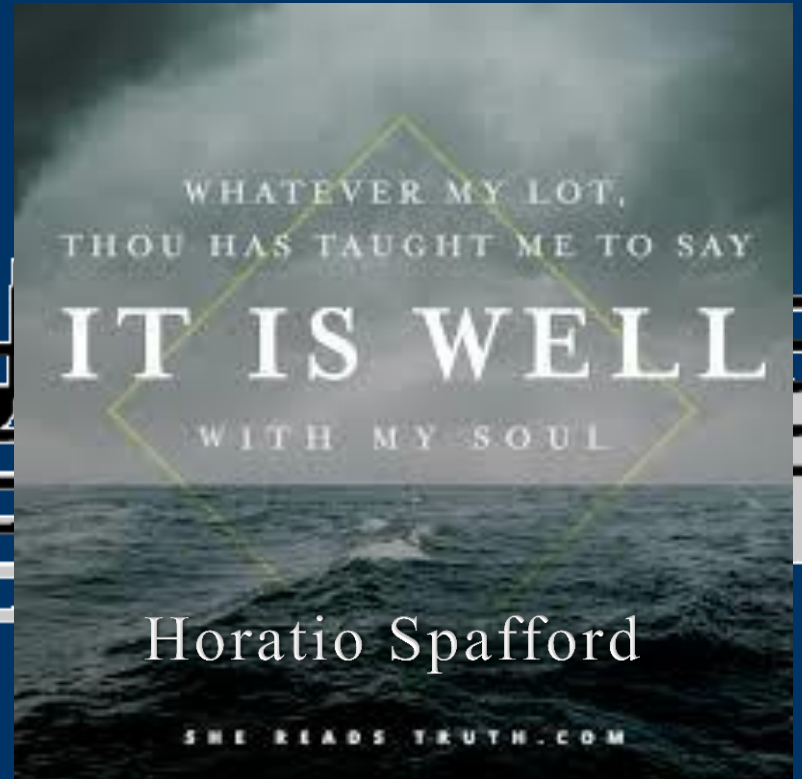
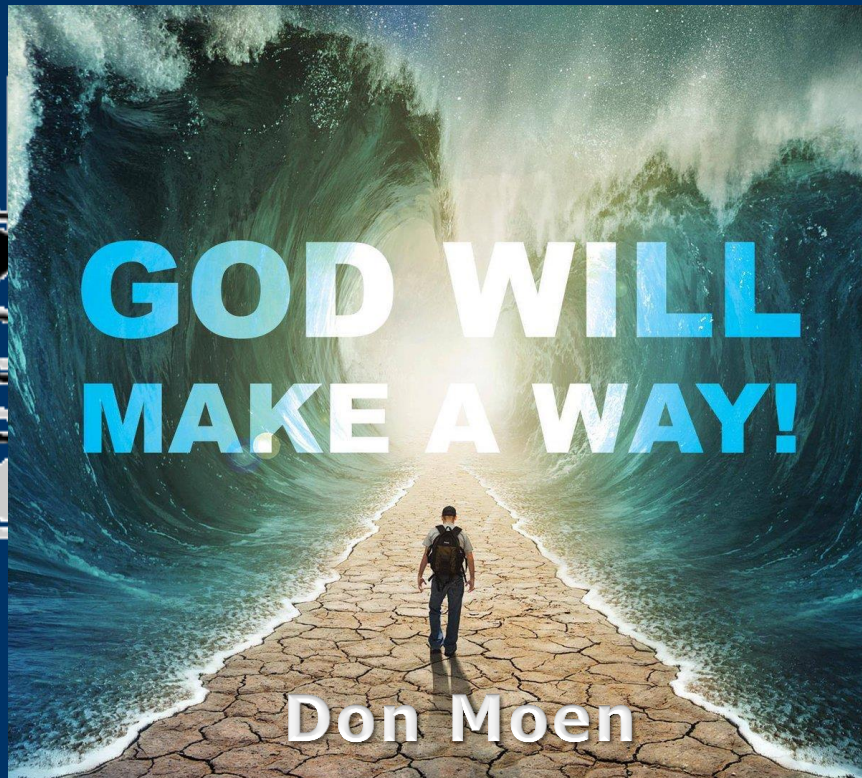
2 Cor 1:10 *He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, **11** as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.*



II. SUFFERING: UNRAVELING ITS MYSTERY

B) Wise Words of Explanation

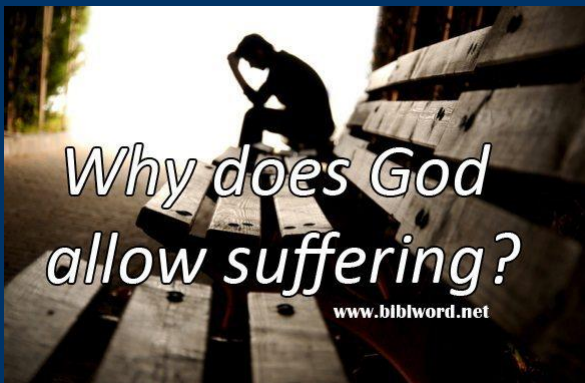
3. That we might learn to give thanks in everything.



III. SUFFERING: HANDLING ITS PERPLEXITIES

A) *Instead of focusing only on yourself now, think of how you can help others later.*

B) *Rather than fighting, surrender; rather than resisting, release.*



C) *Rather than getting even which seems to come more naturally, try giving thanks.*

CONCLUSION:



In God's divine purpose He has included suffering to make the melody of our song harmonious.

Hope *Our hope is rested securely in His hand.*

Faith *Our faith is built firmly in His promise.*

Peace *Our peace is rooted deeply in His love.*

CONCLUSION:



In God's divine purpose He has included suffering to make the melody of our song harmonious.

Hope

Hide me now, under Your wings.

Cover me, within Your mighty hand.

When the ocean rise and thunder roar.

I will soar with You above the storm.

Father You are King over the flood.

I will be still, know You are God.

Peace

Find rest my soul, in Christ alone

Know His power, in quietness and trust.

Faith



CONCLUSION:



In God's divine purpose He has included suffering to make the melody of our song harmonious.

Hope
Faith
Peace



Let Christ turns your suffering into a symphony.



CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Share from your personal experience of suffering. What have you learn from that painful experience?*
- 2. What are some reasons God includes suffering as part of our life experience? What good does it do to us?*
- 3. Why is focusing on yourself makes suffering unbearable?*
- 4. What good does it do in time of suffering to surrender and release rather than fight and resist God?*
- 5. Why is the attitude of getting even with others does not bring peace?*
- 6. How does God use suffering to help us mature and grow spiritually?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 1:1-11