

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Embracing the Path of Pain

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Scripture: **Psalm 25:1-16**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Paul is on his way back to Jerusalem after his third missionary journey. Along the way he meets with fellow disciples for mutual encouragement, but some fear for his life and try to persuade him not to go back to Jerusalem because of the pain and suffering he will face there. Paul would not be dissuaded because he embraced suffering for the name of Jesus. **We embrace the path of pain by knowing God's purpose, receiving God's help, and following his ways.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul traveled with other disciples and consistently stopped along the journey to spiritually strengthen and be strengthened by fellow disciples, gathering with them in their homes. Why was this a priority for Paul? How are you following Paul's example of being regularly strengthened by other believers? How are you strengthening others in their faith?
2. Paul embraced the pain and suffering that was to come and said, "I am ready to not only to be bound but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Paul was later able to write Romans 5:3-5. How was Paul able to speak and write these words? What are some things that made him who he was in the face of extreme affliction?
3. Read John 15:20a. How can you embrace this part of God's purpose for you in this life?
4. Read Hebrews 2:10-18. In the midst of suffering, how do you receive help from God?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Do you find that help from God during affliction often comes from other brothers and sisters in Christ who have been through affliction? In what ways does this encourage you in the midst of affliction? In what ways does this encourage you long term?
6. One of God's ways is the way of humility. See Micah 6:8. How does humility help us suffer well?
7. What else did you find helpful from this sermon?