

The welcome verse for this week is 2 Corinthians 2:14; “Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”



Making Lemonade

2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians
4:16-18;
James 1:2-5

The Bottom Line: When life hands us lemons, God makes lemonade.

Introduction:

We've all been there...

Grief, loss, and uncertainty do not discriminate against any of us.

As the great philosopher, C-3PO, says, “We seem to be made to suffer. It's our lot in life.”

We need not try and avoid trial and pain. Instead, we must press in and press through.

Tension:

Everything happens for a reason... right?

Everything works out for good...right?

Truth:

Christians need a biblical and healthy understanding of suffering. When life hands us lemons, God makes lemonade (rf. Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28).

How exactly does God turn it out for good?

1. He works in us (rf. James 1:2-5).

2. He ministers through us (rf. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

3. He builds something for us (rf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Application & Conclusion:

If God is good at anything, He is certainly good at redeeming. He loves to redeem broken people and less-than-ideal circumstances. While all in life is not good and certainly not easy, God is good and capable of working everything together for good. We hold onto that hope, knowing that in him, we are conquerors plus some.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3.How do I apply this to my life?

4.If I could ask a question about this it would be....