

1. Opening Prayer

2. Suffering

- a. Punishment (Exodus 32:34)
- b. Discipline (Deuteronomy 8:5)
- c. Atonement: (Isaiah 53:4)

3. Paul's Understanding on Christian Suffering

- a. Unity with Jesus Christ (Acts 9:4, 2 Corinthians 1:5)
- b. Inescapable as the Apostle (Colossians 1:24, 2 Timothy 4:5)
- c. Prerequisite to the Glory (Romans 8:17-18, 2 Corinthians 4:17)
- d. Tool of Reliance on God (2 Corinthians 1:8-9, Acts 16:25)
- e. Seed of Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-6, Philippians 2:25-27)
- f. The Way to Earn Power (2 Corinthians 4:16, 12:7-9)

Question. Can you find out these functions of suffering in other people's lives in the bible?

4. Structure of 2 Corinthians 12

- i. Paul's boasting vv. 1-6
- ii. God's power in Paul's weakness vv. 7-10
- iii. Paul's boasting vv. 11-13
- iv. Paul's truthfulness vv. 14-18
- v. Paul's concern vv. 19-21

5. Read 2 Corinthians 12

## 6. Questions

- a. In verse 1, Paul says there is nothing to be gained by boasting, but he boasted. Why? Read 1 Cor. 14:26. Or, is there any profitable boasting?
- b. Why do you think Paul pretended to have heard a person's experience of the third heaven?
- c. Do you think the third heaven and the paradise are the same place?
- d. In verse 6, what is the reason that Paul refrained from boasting more?
- e. What does verse 8 remind you of?
- f. How do you think "signs, wonders, and miracles" are the marks of apostles?
- g. How do you understand verse 13?
- h. In verse 19, what is difference between defending and strengthening?
- i. In verse 20, what would be Paul wanted from the Corinthians and what would be the Corinthians wanted from Paul?

## 7. Closing Prayer