

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *2 Corinthians Series*

These questions are for the **September 2, 2018** sermon, "Comfort for the downcast." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 7:5-16) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

1. The source of comfort is God (5-7; 1:3-4)
  - a. The down cast are those who are still and waiting for God (humble) in the midst of
    - i. Physical exhaustion (5)
    - ii. Relational conflict (5)
    - iii. Emotional trauma (5)
  - b. God is the kind of God who comforts his people when they are downcast.
    - i. Note the "chain of comfort" that comes when there is good news about how God is at work in the life of the church.
    - ii. Corinthians comfort Titus
    - iii. Titus comforts Paul (6-7)
2. The environment of comfort is relational unity (8-13)
  - a. Relational unity flows out of believing what God's Word says
    - i. about what we believe about God (and salvation)
    - ii. about how to live before God
    - iii. about the true repentance. The hallmarks of true repentance . . .
      1. righteousness: a growing eagerness to walk in God's ways
      2. vindication: willingly provide restitution to people we have wronged
      3. indignation: frustration and even hatred toward our own sin
      4. fear: a reverential awe for God and his Word
      5. longing: restored relationships with those who have exhorted us
      6. zeal: a growing eagerness to participate in serve in God's kingdom
      7. punishment: an ongoing willingness to accept consequences for our past sin, and limitations on our personal freedoms.
3. The results of comfort is great joy and deepening love (14-16)

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Talk to us about an area of your life where you are downcast (exhausted and humbled before God). In what way has God comforted you? How has he brought "portable strength" out on to the battlefield to provide strength for you?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul speaks of this "Chain of comfort" whereby God's good work in one place travels to another place and provides comfort for others. In what way are you a link in this chain? Have you been telling your stories of God's grace and work to others? Have you been repeating stories about others of God's grace and work to others?
3. Based on #2, above: How does "worldly regret" differ from "godly regret"?
4. Based on #2, above: Relational unity flows when the people of God are exhibiting the marks of true repentance. Review the seven hallmarks of true repentance and discuss them.