

Sunday, February 25, 2018
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington
Minister Stan Salaam 8a.m
Series: Balance of Your Work, Worship, and Witness
Sermon: We are in This Thing Together

It is not about us

2 Cor 1:3-7 - (KJV) 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. 4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; 6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

Intro: It is not about us. We are in a crazy season. Death of our members, troubles in our schools and communities, and a lot of stuff just going on. Trouble, affliction, suffering, and tribulation finds its way to our door. We should not be surprised by it because Christ suffered we will suffer too. We shouldn't be surprised but it may catch us off guard. We must remember:

1. The Person of our Comfort - Even though we may we may be going through, God is still worthy of our praise. You need to get the right perspective and give God praise while you are going through. God is the Source of mercy, compassion, and comfort. V. 3
2. The Purpose of our Comfort - God comforts us in all things. He doesn't comfort us from but in our tribulations, God will continually comfort us in all that we will go through. We need to learn to trust Him more. The purpose is that we learn to rely on Him more. Other times the purpose is that we will be able to empathize and sympathize with others. The purpose may be that we may be able to help somebody else. The sufferings we bear are numerous but the Comfort that He extends to us can cover them all. v. 4 & 5
3. The Pattern of our Comfort - As we are afflicted, we can comfort others. We can bring others close to Christ and salvation. As Christ suffered for us, He still extended His love towards others and helped others. Therefore as we go through, we too should help others. v. 6 & 7