
THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS

Alliance International Church

11 May, 2025

A WARM WELCOME AND HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

You may be wondering, "Why the confusing and potentially grim title for Mother's Day?" Well, the good news and bad news is a look at the reality of suffering in our world through the lens of Scripture with a heart of gratitude for the good news found in God and modeled in our mothers. Mothers have a special ability to comfort and nurture those they love. Mothers bring strength and resolve to face difficult times. When we look at all of the suffering in our world, we must look to God first, and then we can see an example of God's heart through the loving, godly hearts of mothers. This is a model and an example of how we can face life's difficulties together as followers of Jesus in the church.

I. CONSIDER OUR MOTHERS!

What is one word that you would use to describe your mother? Share that with one another.

One word that describes a mother is empathy. The ability to feel, understand, and share in the pain of others.

This is what we learn from the heart of God in our main passage today. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 together.

II. WHERE DOES SUFFERING COME FROM?

In Genesis chapter 3, we read about the fall of mankind.

What was the name of the tree? What did the serpent tempt Adam and Eve with through the lie in Gen 3:4-5?

When people decide they can take the place of God, and decide for themselves what is right and wrong, the result is mass suffering and evil throughout the world. Does that mean all people are evil and can never make a right decision? Of course not, but when we look at the big picture, this is where wars, theft, murder, adultery, and many other forms of sin and suffering arise. People justify their actions based on their own desires and opinions of what is right or wrong in their own heart.

III. THERE IS PURPOSE IN PAIN

Do you think there can be purpose in our suffering? Do you believe God can bring good out of our pain?

Share some examples together.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 and discuss the examples that Paul gives. Then read Philippians 1:18-21 to see an example of the fruit of walking with Christ and walking with fellow Christians through difficult times.

IV. WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR SUFFERING

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 to see God's heart. We are to share in our suffering through the comfort that God provides.

V. GOD CAN TAKE OUR SUFFERING AND TURN IT INTO SOMETHING GOOD AND INFINITELY MEANINGFUL!

Read Romans 5:3-8 and see how God can take suffering and turn it into something good.

Pray for your suffering and the suffering of those around you. Pray God will bring goodness out of it.
