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"HOLDING ON IN TOUGH TIMES"

John Greene, Senior Pastor

TRUTH: We are living in uncomfortable times.

TRUTH: There's comfort from scripture (2 Corinthians 1:3).

INSIGHT: Anybody who doesn't believe in sin is a fool. The illusion is over. This is a seriously flawed world.

I. THE BIBLE ON THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES

1. Job 5:7
2. Job 14:1
3. Psalm 22:11
4. Isaiah 8:22
5. Ecclesiastes 2:17
6. John 16:33

II. GOD IS IN OUR TROUBLE (Isaiah 14:24, 46:10-11).

TRUTH: God is in the trouble of our lives, either sending or permitting (Amos 3:6; Lamentations 3:37, 38, 39).

III. THE PURPOSES OF GOD ARE HIDDEN.

TRUTH: The purposes of God are hidden in the events of men's lives (Isaiah 45:15).

IV. GOD TELLS US ONLY WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW (Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28).

V. GOD'S PURPOSES IN GENERAL ARE FOR BELIEVERS' GOOD.

1. Trouble tests our faith (Deuteronomy 8:2; 2 Chronicles 32:31).
2. Trouble humbles us, lest we think too highly of ourselves (2 Corinthians 12:7).
3. Trouble weans us from the world.

INSIGHT: Trials turn our priorities upside down.

TRUTH: Refinement precedes a new assignment (2 Timothy 2:21 NCV).