

Introduction: We all know something of what it means to be afflicted...

I. The Certainty of Our Afflictions...

II. The Nature of Our Afflictions...

A. *They are Slight...*

B. *They are Momentary...*

Observation: Paul says they don't amount to much!! Is he thinking correctly?

III. Making Sense of Our Afflictions...

A. *We Need the Right Perspective (comparison...)*

1. In light of future glory...
2. Glory that is beyond measure... *I Corinthians 2:9-10*
3. Glory that is eternal...

B. *We Need to Understand their Purpose...*

1. They are preparing us...
2. They are working a nobler purpose...
3. They are not meritorious... *see John 14:1-2*
4. They are a means of grace... *Psalm 34:19; 119:67, 71, 75*

Application: Our afflictions and the Lord's Supper...