

A.M. SERMON NOTES
8/2/2026

"HARD PRESSED ... NOT CRUSHED"

(2 Corinthians 4:8-9, v16 - 5:1)

1. WE WILL BE "HARD PRESSED"

- 1) Because of the order of the universe:
(Matthew 5:45) "He sends rain on the just and on the unjust"
- 2) Because of other's choices: government; employer; drunk driver; crime ...
- 3) Because we are Christians: (2 Timothy 3:12) "live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution"
- 4) Because of Satan's work: (1 Thessalonians 2:18) "Satan hindered us"

2. THESE THINGS MAY "WORK FOR US" (1 Corinthians 4:17)

- 1) (Hebrews 12:11) " ... chastening ... afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained ("exercised") by it."

"Afterward" - there will be times when we do not see the "silver lining" until the trial is past; when it is over; when we are "through" it.
It is friction that polishes the stone and sharpens the ax.

- 2) They cause me not to be satisfied with this life. (2 Corinthians 5:1)

The joys of heaven are not on earth.
We sing: This World Is Not My Home

- 3) They cause me to be sympathetic to others in their troubles.

- 4) I'm an example to myself in that I've over-come other troubles; so,
I can over-come this one, too.

- 5) By over-coming, I become an example to others in trouble. They gain confidence and say, "If Brian can get through that, then I can get through this."

- 6) It develops patience in me when I've been "trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11)

(Romans 5:3) " ... knowing that tribulation works patience"
(James 1:2) " ... the proving of your faith works patience"
Over-coming smaller frustrations prepares me to over-come the bigger ones.

- 7) The "afterward" taught me check hurtful tendencies. ("preventive medicine")
I've learned and tend to stay away from those things that will hurt me.

- 8) And having experienced hardships, I appreciate good times and peace.

CLOSE: (Romans 8:17-18) " ... for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."