

Clinging to Christ Keys from Colossians

Getting Started...

What did you thank God for this Thanksgiving?

Describe a time in your life when you felt extremely grateful.

Describe a time in your life when you found it difficult to be thankful. How did others around you encourage you or (if they didn't) how do you wish they had?

Read the verses below and consider how we, as a community of faith, should respond to those who are experiencing difficulty:

Romans 12:15-

Ephesians 4:32-

2 Corinthians 1:3-5-

Going Deeper...

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-29

It seems that after Paul became a servant of Christ (vs. 23), his whole life became somewhat of a cave experience. Which of his experiences would be hardest for you?

These were excruciating circumstances, and thankfully, many of them ended. 2 Cor. 12:7-10 tells us that Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" that God did not remove. What was Paul's response?

Is there a "thorn" in your flesh—a circumstance that although you have asked God to remove it, He has allowed it to remain? What has been your response to the thorn or how do you want to respond?

What reason did God give Paul for the thorn?

God doesn't always give us a reason for why he allows the trials in our lives. When we know the reason for the difficulties that come, does it make a difference?

Why doesn't Paul give up after all of this? What keeps him going? What allows him to delight in these times? First share what you think. Then **read Rom. 5:1-4, Phil. 3:7-11.**

What reasons does Paul give in these verses?

Have you ever met anyone that very clearly loved Jesus more than life? What were they like?

Can you think of other verses that have encouraged you in difficult times?