

## Troubles will Come !

1 January 2012

### Introduction

- If we look back at 2011, it was a very eventful year! What happened that was unexpected?
- Did any of you have a completely trouble-free year?
- Looking forward to 2012, what can we expect with certainty? MORE TROUBLES!

### **Job 14:1**

- Man is full of trouble!
- How does this passage make you feel? What is your reaction to this verse?

### **Psalm 34:19**

- How does this verse make you feel? What does it add that Job 14:1 did not refer to?
- What does it mean to be “delivered” from troubles? It does NOT mean we will have no troubles, but that we will not be destroyed by them / we can cope with them
- Have you found this to be true in your own life? Anyone like to share?

### **James 1:2**

- What is the promise in this verse? ... “whenever” you face trials ... We are promised trials !  
Trials refer to difficult life situations but also to the normal trials of the Christian life – its not easy to deny oneself, be humble, love our enemies, etc

### **James 1:3-4**

- “pure joy!” – how can we get to this point? What does it take to welcome trials / troubles ?  
James gives us a clue in vs 3 – a four letter word. We can KNOW with certainty that God will use the trials for our good/benefit. God is faithful – we can trust Him in this
- Why do trials get the better of us sometimes?

### **James 1:5**

- What does praying for wisdom do in the context of facing trials? Wisdom helps us look beyond the immediate challenge and focus on the benefits that will accrue / the growth that we can expect if we trust God and persevere

### **John 16:33**

- How did Jesus overcome the world? What does that mean (soon after this he went to the cross ...). He was victorious over the world – the sinful fallen nature of mankind
- What kind of peace do we have in Christ? Does it mean that Christians will not have any troubles in our lives? Of course not ... but we can know with certainty that God is in control, and can be secure in Christ

### **Romans 8:28**

- “In all things” God works for the good of those who love Him – what does “all things” include? Troubles/ difficult times and also good times/blessings
- What does it mean that God works “for the good” of those who love Him? Does it mean that if we love God, we will get rich and enjoy good health and have only perfect relationships? NO – “good” is defined from the perspective of God – what He wants for us / what is good for us is that we grow in faith and are transformed into the likeness of His son

### Convictions

- *What troubles or difficulties did you need to face in 2011?*
- *How would you describe your attitude and response to these difficulties?*
- *Did these difficulties lead you to rely on God and grow in some way to more resemble Christ? Check your answer to this question with someone who knows you well*
- *What do you think you could change in order to grow through troubles and difficulties in 2012?*