

# ***My Worst of Time, My Best of Times***

*Sunday June 6, 2021  
Series: Genuine Ministry*

*“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God,  
who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”  
2 Corinthians 5:5 ESV*

**There is nothing that comes into my life that the Lord has not prepared me to face!**

*“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”  
Philippians 4:13 ESV*

## **I. Two Foundational Truth for Ministering in a Secular Culture**

*“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”  
Acts 18:9–11 ESV*

### **1. We Are Called to Minister**

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:” 2 Corinthians 1:1 ESV*

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”  
Ephesians 2:10 ESV*

### **2. Living Hope is God’s Church (not mine)**

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:” 2 Corinthians 1:1 ESV*

## **II. My Worst Time are My Best Times Because God is Working**

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,”  
2 Corinthians 1:3 ESV*

**1. God is Intimately Aware of My Situation (*the Father of mercies*)**

**2. God is the Source of ALL Comfort (*God of All Comfort*)**

**3. God Will Use My Struggle to Help Other**

*“who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”  
2 Corinthians 1:4 ESV*

**4. Difficulties are My Opportunity to Rely on God**

*“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”  
2 Corinthians 1:8–9 ESV*

**Am I Holding onto the Lord Right Now? (Do I Know Him?)**

*“And without faith it is impossible to please him,  
for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists  
and that he rewards those who seek him.”  
Hebrews 11:6 ESV*