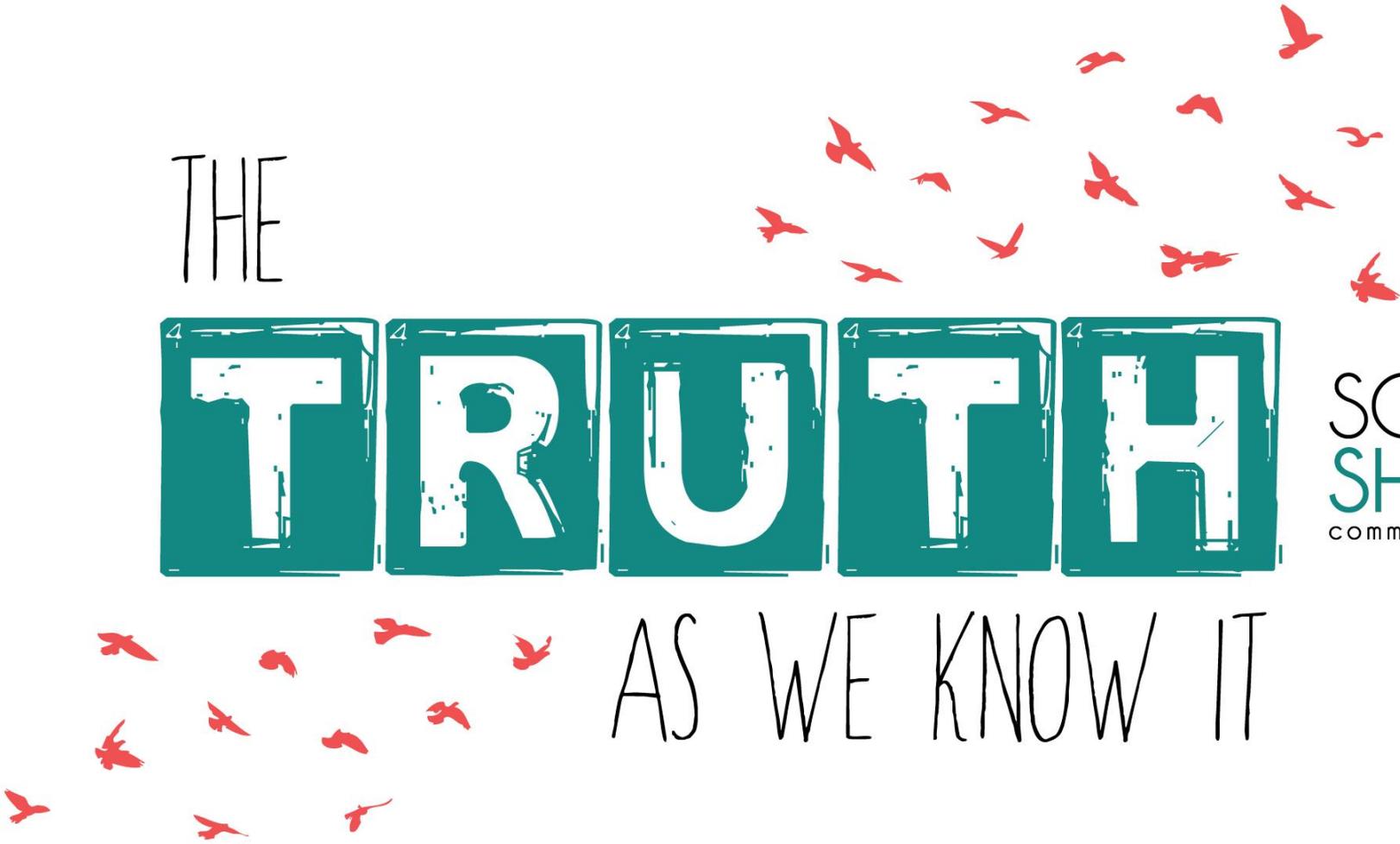


THE

TRUTH

AS WE KNOW IT

SOUTH
SHORE
community church





Spiritual Confusion

- We humans are capable of enduring the most oppressive circumstances IF they make sense to us.
- When there is no understanding as to WHY we suffer, that is when we question God's goodness, His plan or are tempted to move into discouragement.
- God sometimes causes pain and suffering to touch our lives but for the most part, He doesn't cause it as much as He **ALLOWS** it.



- The one who seeks to exploit our pain is Satan and he does this by trying to get us to feel victimized by God. He wants us to doubt God's goodness.
- The enemy always wants us to view our challenges in terms of being bad, negative or destructive. He certainly doesn't want us to view them as good, beneficial or helpful to ourselves or others.



Is it always easy for you and I to distinguish between that which is good and that which is bad in the things that God allows?

- Joseph being sold into slavery.
 - One day becoming a godly ruler over Egypt....saving millions of lives
- Death of Lazarus.
 - Raise Lazarus from the dead to show people His mighty power
- Jesus words to Peter, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32)
 - Failure moment became a fertile moment where God did a mighty work in this man in such a way that he became one of the most influential leaders in the early church



- Folks we need to remember that there are some things about God’s plan that will remain a mystery. We lack the capacity or understanding to grasp His purposes and interventions in our lives.
- “As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.” Eccl. 11:5



“Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off it’s dimension? Surely you must know. Who stretched the measuring line across it?...Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness when I fixed limits for it and set its doors in place when I said, “This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?...”



What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? Can you take them to their places? Do you know the paths to their dwellings? Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years!...Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail...what is the way to the place where the lightening is dispersed or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth....”Job 38



“I now know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge? Surely I spoke of things I did not understand...things too wonderful for me to know.” Job 42:1-3



Everything we go through in life has the potential to form Christ in us and through us.

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.” James 1:2-4



- The transformation process – Christ being formed in us - requires our permission. It needs a heart that is open, teachable and moldable.
- We must allow Him to make changes in our character, in our attitude, in our heart, in our thoughts, in our motives and our behaviors. Spiritual upgrades are available to us in every situation if we allow it.
- “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me.” Gal. 2:20



Everything we go through in life has the potential to not only form Christ in us but also through us. He uses our pain to touch others. Nothing is a waste in the hands of Jesus. The comfort we experience from Jesus is what we pass on to others. (Rick Warren)

