

THE GOD THAT DELIVERS  
II COR. 1:8-12

Introduction:

- A. Paul assures the Corinthians that God will comfort them in tribulation.
  - 1. v3,4.
  - 2. He is ... "the God of all comfort."
  
- B. God also delivers His people.
  - 1. v10.
  - 2. He not only comforts, He delivers.

I. TROUBLE IN ASIA. V8,9

- A. Having trouble is not a sign of weakness.
  - 1. "for we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in asia."
  - 2. trouble = thlipsis - tribulation.
  - 3. Paul admitted that he had trouble.
  
- B. Paul had serious trouble.
  - 1. "that we were pressed out of measure."
    - a. pressed = bareomai - to be heavy, be weighed down, borne down by evils.
  - 2. above strength = hyperdunamis - beyond power, beyond what one can accomplish with one's natural power or strength.
  - 3. "insomuch that we despaired even of life."
    - a. despaired = to be wholly without resource, to despair utterly.
  
- C. Paul looked at the circumstances and sentenced himself to die. v9.
  - 1. sentence = aeokrima - the judicial sentence as the result or issue of krinein, condemnation.
  - 2. Indeed, we personally passed the sentence of death on ourselves!

- D. This trouble was not without purpose.
  - 1. "that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead."
  - 2. The God we would need if we are sentenced to die!  
We are!
    - a. By whom? God! "for it is appointed...."
  - 3. Rom. 8:28, He can work it out!

## II. THE GOD THAT DELIVERS. V10

- A. "who delivered us from so great a death."
  - 1. This is written in the past tense.
- B. "and doth deliver."
  - 1. This is present tense.
- C. "in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."
  - 1. This is future tense.
- D. These were not strange truths to Paul.
  - 1. He knew the scriptures.
  - 2. Psalm 32:7 "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance."

## III. PRAYER HELPS THOSE IN TROUBLE. V12

- A. "ye also helping together by prayer for us."
  - 1. Let me have your co-operation in prayer."
  - 2. It is always right to pray.
- B. "that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons, thanks may be given by many on our behalf."
  - 1. So that the good that is done to us in answer to many prayers will mean eventually that many will thank God for our preservation.
  - 2. What the prayer of many gain, many can give thanks for answered prayer.

IV. HOW TO WALK WITH JOY IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE. U12

A. Paul's walk, a matter of pride.

1. "for our rejoicing is this."
  - a. rejoicing = kauchaomai - to speak loud, be loud tongued, boast or vaunt one's self, to glory, in a good or bad sense.
2. "the testimony of our conscience."
  - a. Paul could feel this emotion with a clear conscience.

B. The manner of Paul's walk.

1. "that in simplicity."
  - a. simplicity = aplotes - singleness, plainness, always opposite of duplicity or trickery.
2. "and godly sincerity."
  - a. sincerity = eilikrineia = clearness, pureness, genuineness, as found so by judging in the sunlight.
3. "not with fleshly wisdom."
  - a. Not using the methods of the carnal mind.
4. "but by the grace of God."
  - a. God's kindness and favor.
5. "we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to youward."

V. GOD'S PEOPLE CANNOT BE DELIVERED FROM THE TROUBLE OF THE WORLD BY LIVING AS THE WORLD LIVES.

A. If we are delivered, God must do it.

1. Ask Israel.
2. Ask Daniel.
3. Ask Paul.

B. If we must suffer as Christians, God will comfort us.

1. Deliverance may not be deliverance from bad experiences, but the grace to endure, which is victory.
2. Paul's "thorn in the flesh."