

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:8-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GOD'S PLAN IN OUR TROUBLES

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Comfort. Ministry. Suffering. Love.

Introduction to the Text; **2nd Corinthians 1:8-11**

2Cor. 1:8-11

For **we** do not want you to be **ignorant**, brethren, of **our trouble** which came to **us** in Asia: that **we** were **burdened beyond measure, above strength**, so that **we despaired even of life**. :9 Yes, **we** had **the sentence of death in ourselves**, that (its best for us) **we** should not trust in ourselves **but in God** who raises the dead, :10 who **delivered us** from **so great a death**, and **does deliver us**; **in whom we** trust that **He will still deliver us**, :11 you also **helping** together in **prayer for us**, **that thanks may be given** by many persons on **our** behalf **for the gift granted** to **us** through many.

When I Say;

GOD'S PLAN IN OUR TROUBLES

I mean that God's plan is never more at work than in our troubles. That He uses these painful and trying issues of life to develop us for eternity.

John 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (not as an addition. but as the connection)"

1Tim. 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus,

Looking Back @ Verse 4

Verse 4b

It's the LORD who **comforts** us in *all* our **tribulation**,

“*all*” meaning that in **every issue of life** – He has more of, an unlimited amount of, an abounding volume of **comfort** for “the” suffering.

tribulation θλίψις **thlipsis**, *thlip'-sis*; pressure(s), multiplied anguish, burden(s), persecution(s), troubles(s), worrie(s), and anxieties(s).

GOD'S PLAN IN OUR TROUBLES

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) We need to be in the know

v. 8

WE NEED TO BE IN THE KNOW

1a.) Knowing that **we have unlimited access**

v. 8

For **we** do not want you to be **ignorant**, brethren,
of **our** **trouble** which came to **us** in Asia:

ignorant ἀγνοέω **agnoeo**, *ag-no-eh'-o*; selecting or choosing not to know something. to ignore or to be unwilling to know. To be uninformed by choice.

This kind of “**trouble** **which came** to **us** in Asia”
WAS THE KIND OF TROUBLE THAT OPPOSES THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES.

What did the “troubles” create?

A deep and wrenching **emotional pain** that often seeks to ruin us.

THE IGNORANT CHRISTIAN.

WE HAVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE BIBLE WHICH IS OURS FOR THE TAKING.
EVERY ANSWER NEEDED IS OURS IF WE ARE WILLING TO BE INFORMED.

Psa. 119:105

Thy word is a **lamp** unto my feet, and a **light** unto my path.

The **Bible** (*like a lamp*) gives me the confidence to take one more step. The **Bible** (*like a light*) shows me where I’m going.

BY ATTACKING OUR **HOPE**. BY ATTACKING OUR **PURPOSE**.
BY ATTACKING OUR **UNDERSTANDING**. BY ATTACKING OUR
COMMITMENT

THIS KIND OF TROUBLE ATTACKED OUR **FAITH**.

WE NEED TO BE IN THE KNOW

1b.) Knowing that **the weight will be too much** v. 8

that **we** were (**burdened**) **beyond measure**

burdened grk βαρέω bareo, bar-eh'-o; to be weighed down. pressed.
Crushed. suffocating

The tension and pressures that difficulty applies to us is all part of a deep and personal work of God to get us to the point of “**knowing**” that is “**experiential weakness**” in ourselves.

It sounds painful and it is painful when we come to that moment when we say; “Lord, I can’t do this anymore. – I can’t make it”

The Dark Weight of **Perceived** Abandonment

Jonah 2:3-4

You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. :4 I said, 'I have been banished from your sight;

WE NEED TO BE IN THE KNOW

1c.) Knowing that our strength isn't enough v. 8

(burdened) above strength,

Paul is saying that he didn't have enough of what was needed to endure it within himself = **he saw his self-deficiency.**

He is saying that he had come to the end of himself.

It's only when we have died to our "self-resource" that we can experience the power of God's resurrection strength.

Psa. 61:1-3

Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. :2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. :3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

WE NEED TO BE IN THE KNOW

1d.) Knowing that fear kills every time v. 8

(burdened)
so that we despaired even of life.

Despaired ἐξαπορέομαι *exaporeomai*, *ex-ap-or-eh'-om-ahee*;
to be utterly at a loss. to go to the depths of despondency.
full and total despair.

**when we can't see a reason to what we're going through
we almost always trend toward despondency.**

our faith will need an infusion of power.

That comes by #1 hearing the word of God. #2 by literally spending time alone with the LORD. #3 placing your situation in the hands of God **who alone brings purpose, meaning and value to the suffering.**

God has promised to deliver us.

But Pastor Jack - is that a **literal promise** // a **literal deliverance**?

The answer is yes – on both counts.

The LORD will either deliver us **from** our trouble / trial / difficulty in His time or He will deliver us **by** our trouble / trial / difficulty at our time.

One we endure and come out on the other side.
The other we experience and go up to the other side

GOD'S PLAN IN OUR TROUBLES

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2.) He wants to make us courageous

v. 9-10

HE WANTS TO MAKE US COURAGEOUS

2a.) Courageous in the face of intimidation

v. 9

Yes, **we** had **the sentence of death** in ourselves,
that **we** should **not trust in ourselves** - **but in God** who raises the dead,

sentence ἀπόκριμα *apokrima*, *ap-ok'-ree-mah*; a judicial decision. A sentence handed down by the judge or judges. – in this case, the world has judged the Christian and condemned him to death.

“Because of this ruling – we had better be trusting in God because only God can raise the dead.”

How Could Paul and his Team be under such a threat when

all he was doing was spreading the good news of the gospel?

Because it's a Spiritual Battle with Supernatural Powers

That the gospel upsets people – because it's a message that saves !
(and some people believe that they do not need saving)

I believe that the Lord develops within every Christian a warrior spirit.

A warrior spirit that sees a purpose and a meaning that is larger than life.

2Cor. 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, :5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

God Redevelops Us. God Reconstructs Us

Josh. 1:5-6, 7,9

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. :6 Be strong and of good courage... :7 Only be strong and very courageous... :9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Here Is The Holy of Holies of this Section:

that we should **not trust in ourselves** - **but in God**
who raises the dead,

Life's hardships are teaching us to not trust in ourselves.
Difficulty causes us to see God's faithfulness and power in the
trauma.

When All Else Fails – The LORD Is There !

Rev. 21:4

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

HE WANTS TO MAKE US COURAGEOUS

2b.) Courageous in the face of past fears

v. 10

who **delivered us** from **so great a death**,

delivered ῥύομαι *rhoumai*, *rhoo'-om-ahay*; to pluck up or out of the current (water). To pull up and out of. To rescue.

Here Paul is both speaking about situations that had happened to him - that the Corinthian believers knew of. But also an even deeper meaning.

from **so great a death**, meaning an extremely dangerous, deadly situation.
a powerful example from an aged Paul in prison, in Rome

2Tim. 4:16-18

At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. :17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. :18 **And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!**

The Lord Delivered Paul from Evil and Presented him in Heaven
By means of a tool called death.

Phil. 1:20-21 NIV

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. :21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Christian, know this about your past;

We once had a sentence of death in ourselves – it was sin’s condemnation. Our guilt and shame and the sins of the past – condemned us.

The dead-life you and I once had is gone forever.

The moment you trusted in Christ that original person of you – died. Now you have a new life to live because you have been recreated, rescued, **redeemed** out of the **sin-slave** market of man.

1Cor. 6:19-20

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? :20 For you were **bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

BTW – He will never take you to the “RETURNS” counter.

John 6:37-39

However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. :38 For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. :39 And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day.

HE WANTS TO MAKE US COURAGEOUS

2c.) Courageous in the face of current pressures v. 10

and **does deliver us**;

this implies that He is delivering us on a daily basis.

And that His mercy and grace is active and at work constantly.

1Cor. 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

“if grace could be measured I think that we would all be surprised to see just how much of it does it take to get us through one day here on earth.”
- jack

Jer. 31:3

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore **with lovingkindness I have drawn you.**

Eph. 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom **you were sealed** for the day of redemption.

HE WANTS TO MAKE US COURAGEOUS

2d.) Courageous in the face of future ills v. 10

in whom we trust that **He will still deliver us,**

This is the assurance we have.

It not only speaks of (#1) His power to get us through all of our future troubles but (#2) to get us through our moment of death and into heaven.

And It's All Based On His Love For You

Jer. 29:11

For **I** know the thoughts that **I** think toward **you**, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give **you** a future and a hope.

Jude 24

Now to Him (God) who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present **you** faultless before the **Presence of His Glory** with **exceeding joy**, (*joy all over*)

Zeph. 3:17

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet **you** with His love, He will **rejoice** over you with singing.”

Rejoice גִּיל **giyl**, *gheel*; or (permutation) גוּל **guwl**, *gool*; to spin round or about by influence of an emotion. bold rejoicing, to cringe or show facial expression.

GOD'S PLAN IN OUR TROUBLES

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3.) Our lives are to make a difference v. 11

OUR LIVES ARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

3a.) Will you work with us ? v. 11

you also **helping** together in **prayer for us**,

helping συνυπουργέω **sunupourgeo**, *soon-oop-oorg-eh'-o*; a compound of 3 greek words found only here in the N.T. 4862, 5259, 2041. Meaning to be a co-auxiliary, co-assistance, co-laboring, co-partnership. The unification of others together for a cause.

Gal. 6:2

Bear one another's **burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Thanks εὐχαριστέω **eucharisteo**, *yoo-khar-is-teh'-o*; the grateful. to express gratitude (towards); specially, to express, to make known your deep gratitude

1Th. 5:16-18

Rejoice always, :17 pray without ceasing, :18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

THE INSEPARABLE REALITY OF THE POWER TO PRAYER

THE POWER OF PRAYER IS THE OBJECT TO WHICH YOUR PRAYER IS DIRECTED - WHICH IS TO GOD HIMSELF

OUR LIVES ARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

3b.) Will you reach out with us ?

v. 11

that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf

Each of us are a message to the people around us.

OUR LIVES ARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

3c.) Will you care for them with us ?

v. 11

for the gift granted to us through many.

A Drowning Man

No one appreciates life more than a dying man. Every man and woman, boy and girl needs rescuing. But some are still swimming in the sea of self. You cannot rescue a man who thinks he can save himself. You cannot even rescue a man who thinks he can maybe do it himself. You can only rescue a man who is going down for the 3rd time – when he is convinced that he is dying and there is no hope – that's when real life is about to be had.

Psa. 66:16

Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.

You cannot know this until you know what it's like to own a lost soul.
Lord be merciful to me a sinner. / Lord, depart from me I am a sinful man.

Psa. 66:10

For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.

It's How He Works – Because it's How It Works.
And we are living it out right now – every day – today, tomorrow, until...

Let's Pray for Those Who are Suffering
under Pressure, Affliction, Difficulty.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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