

2 Corinthians 1:8-14

LESSON 03

Paul's Testimony of Conscience

1. 1:8-10 – Paul's Despair and Deliverance

- a. 1:5 - Paul's abundant sufferings of Christ, led to the abundant consolation by Christ
- b. 1:7 - Together in sufferings of Christ, means together in consolation too - Rom 8:17
- c. *"came to us in Asia"* - Paul went to Asia after Corinth and stayed for years - Ac 19:1
 - i. Paul's absence not for fear of suffering; he faced trouble in Asia
 - ii. *"beasts at Ephesus"* - 1 Cor 15:32, but also Acts 19:10, 20, 19:22-23
- d. *"out of measure" "above strength"* - beyond what you can bear leads to hopelessness
 - i. 1 Cor 10:13 doesn't mean despair never comes, but that God is trustworthy
 - ii. Christian life (especially ministry) is not easy, measured, sunshine & flowers
- e. *"... death in ourselves"* - resigned to it - Acts 21:13, 23:12-14, 2 Tim 1:15, 4:6
 - i. Why do we live in evil/suffering/despair? A: to not trust in ourselves
 - ii. *"not trust in ourselves"* - This is a good summary of scripture → Job 41:714, Pro 28:26, Jer 9:23, Luke 18:9, Rom 3:4, 10:17, Rom 4:5, 4:19-25, 1 Tim 6:17, Eph 1:13, Eph 2:8-9 → also 2 Cor - 3:5, 4:7, 12:7
 - iii. *"but in God"* - trust is required for when you don't see - 1Co 15:36, 2Co 5:7
- f. *"so great a death"* - not merely to die, but to die without hope - 1Th 4:13
- g. *"yet deliver us"* - Paul's assurance and hope - 2 Th 3:3, 2Tim 1:12, 3:11, 4:17-18

2. 1:11 – The Help of Prayer

- a. *"ye also"* - God is the deliverer, but help can come from others also.
- b. Prayer is an act of trust in God. Many prayers make much hope for you and others.
- c. *"the gift bestowed"* - deliverance/comfort *"by the means of many persons"*
- d. More prayers = more who are watching with thanksgiving to God -Col 4:2, Eph 6:18
- e. *"on our behalf"* - Paul's suffering provided means for grace to work - Phi 1:17

3. 1:12-14 – Paul's Rejoicing

- a. Paul's rejoicing (boast/glory) is his ministry to them - 1 Thess 1:19-20
- b. *"testimony of our conscience"* = Nothing hiding - see Rom 2:15, 9:1, 13:5
- c. *"simplicity"* = not duplicitous, double minded, double tongued - 1Tim 3:8-9, Eph 6:5
- d. *"godly sincerity"* - Honest, not hypocritical; pure, not wicked - 1 Tim 1:5, 2 Tim 1:3
- e. Sincerity & truth describes ministry to others & family - Pro 20:7, Josh 24:24, 1Co 5:8
- f. Only God's grace allows ministry with this kind of clear conscience b/c Eph 2:8-9
- g. *"we write"* - They were not present, but they write in letters
- h. *"none other things"* - What they write is what is in their conscience, not 2Cor 2:17, 4:2
- i. *"acknowledge"* - Paul's gospel of grace, his apostleship, his ministry -1Co 1:6-9, 14:37
- j. *"acknowledged us in part"* - They claimed part of Paul - but 1 Cor 4:15, 9:2, 15:3.
 - i. They wanted the good and not the bad - the glory and not the suffering.
- k. That they are Paul's rejoicing testifies to his ministry there - 1 Cor 3:9-11, Phi 2:16