

March 25, 2015

**“Why Does God Allow Suffering? (Part 1)-the source of suffering”
2 Corinthians 11**

I. Suffering resulting from Deception “But I fear that as the deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a complete and pure devotion to Christ.” (3, 13-21)

II. Suffering resulting from Faithfulness (22-26)

-Persecution: prison, near death beatings, floggings, beatings with rods, stoning, among false brothers

-Natural calamities: shipwrecks, night and day on the open sea, dangers from rivers, dangers on the sea

-Evil people: robbers, Jews and Gentiles, city, country

III. Suffering resulting from Lack “labor and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and lacking clothing.” (27)

IV. Suffering resulting from Leadership “Not to mention the other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my care for all the churches.” (28)

2Co 11:1-33 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. (2) For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. (3) But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (4) For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! (5) For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. (6) Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things. (7) Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? (8) I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to

minister to you. (9) And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*. (10) As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. (11) Why? Because I do not love you? God knows! (12) But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. (13) For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (15) Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. (16) I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little. (17) What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. (18) Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast. (19) For you put up with fools gladly, since you *yourselves* are wise! (20) For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours *you*, if one takes *from you*, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face. (21) To *our* shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also. (22) Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I. (23) Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. (24) From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; (26) in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; (27) in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— (28) besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. (29) Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn *with indignation*? (30) If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. (31) The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. (32) In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; (33) but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

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