

Follow Me As I Follow Christ - A Journey with Paul

“The Helps of Our Hurts”

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Romans 5:3-5

5.22.16

- A. Question: Which things in life are the “_____” and which are the “not-so _____”? (1 Thess. 5:18)
- B. The old fable of the humble farmer who had a wife, a son and a horse, who whenever something happened he would say, “_____.”
- C. Any study of the life of the apostle Paul requires a serious look at the subject of _____.
- D. We live in a time and culture when we are addicted to creature _____ and we try to avoid _____ and the subject of _____ at all costs.
- E. Also, we live in a time when some of the biggest churches in the country and the most famous preachers on TV peddle the false doctrine of “_____ & _____.”
1. Only a cursory survey of the Bible would put that notion to _____ in a hurry.
- F. All this brings us back to Saul of Tarsus - After he became a Christian, a day rarely passed when he didn't face intense pain, suffering, and pressure related to the harshness of _____ and the hardships of _____.
- G. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he reveals the most about his life and struggles (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 8-9, 4:8-9, 16-18; 6:4-5; 11:24-28).
- H. How was Paul able to glory in his suffering without retaining in his soul one ounce of blame or bitterness toward God? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians _____.
- I. What we discover about this heavenly experience:
1. Paul was writing about _____.
2. Paul knew _____ he went, but he was not sure about what _____ he was in.
3. What Paul heard and witnessed were beyond his ability to express in _____.
- J. What would be the most natural human response to experiencing such a phenomenal, unique experience? Answer: _____.
- K. In God's grace, He solved the _____ problem for Paul in the form of a painful affliction, which Paul called a “_____ in the _____.”
- L. Paul not only understood the nature of the thorn, he grasped the reason for it - it was to ensure a _____ spirit.
- M. Even though Paul understood the reason for the thorn, that didn't stop him from asking God to _____ it _____.
- N. What was God's answer to Paul's request for relief? God answered, “_____.”
- O. God offered something better than relief - God offered sufficient _____.
- P. Let's notice when this happened in Paul's life.
1. Since Paul wrote 2 Corinthians in A.D. ____/____, fourteen years earlier would be about A.D. _____.
2. This places this experience after his return to the safety of _____, but before the commission with Barnabas in _____.
3. This means that Paul received his thorn in the flesh _____ he did much of anything in his long and illustrious missionary career.
- Q. Perhaps this is a good time to correct the faulty thinking that many have - It is not always God's will that we be _____.
1. God's intention is for our _____-term good, not our _____-term relief.
- R. Remember that suffering is nothing _____.
- S. Remember that suffering plays a _____ role.
- T. Remember that we don't have to have comfort to be _____.

Answer Key: A. blessings, blessings. B. We'll, see. C. suffering. D. suffering, suffering. E. health, wealth. E.1. rest. F. life, ministry. H. 12. I.1. himself. I.2. where, form. I.3. words. J. pride. K. pride, thorn, flesh. L. humble. M. take, away. N. No. O. grace. P.1. 55, 56, 41. P.2. Tarsus, Antioch. P.3. before. Q. healed. Q.1. long, short. R. new. S. beneficial. T. content.