

**THE MINISTRY OF THORNS**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10 / OCT. 16, 2016 PM**

**I. THERE ARE THREE TRUTHS ABOUT THORNS.**

- A. First, sometimes they are there by divine permission.
  - 1. God gave Satan permission to inflict Job--Job 2:4-6.
  - 2. God gave Satan permission to inflict Paul--2 Cor. 12:7.
- B. Second, sometimes they are persistent.
  - 1. Job's thorns were eventually removed--Job 42:12a.
  - 2. Paul's thorn, however, was never removed--12:8.
- C. Third, sometimes thorns are profitable--12:9b.

**II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THORNS?**

- A. One purpose of thorns is the prevention of pride.
  - 1. If anyone had a right to be proud it was Paul--12:1-6.
  - 2. Paul's thorn was given in response to his pride--12:7.
- B. Another purpose of thorns is the preparation for power.
  - 1. God's answer of Paul's prayer was not what he expected--12:9a.
  - 2. Paul accepted God's plan for his life--12:9b-10.