I. FIRST, TROUBLE COMES TO ALL OF US.

A. Paul’s life confirms this--1:8a.

8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia............... 

B. Paul’s trouble was severe to the point that he thought he might not survive it. --1:8b-9a.

.................. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death............... 

1. Apparently, these Corinthians knew what Paul was referring to, but we don’t.

2. We know that he had serious problems in Ephesus--Acts 20:19, 1 Cor. 15:32 and Acts 19:23.

II. WHY TROUBLES COMES.

A. First, trouble helps us realize that we can’t always handle what happens to us.

1. This is what Paul says--1:9b.

9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves.............

2. Are you relying on yourself today?

B. Second, trouble helps us understand we need God.

1. This is what Paul said--1:9c.

9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God.............
2. Specifically Paul remembered that he serves a God who can raise the dead—1:9d.

   **9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.**

C. Third, facing trouble in the past gives us confidence when we face trouble in the future.

   1. Paul said this here—1:10.

   2. Paul said it again to the Romans—Romans 8:35 and 37.

D. Fourth, trouble makes us understand how much we need other Christians, especially their prayers.

   1. This is why Paul was thankful for the prayers of these Corinthians—1:11.

   2. But our friends can’t pray for us until we get real with them about our troubles by asking them to pray.