

Traveling The Kings Highway Pt 5

2 Corinthians 4:16

- We are at our fifth and final installment of “**Traveling The Kings Highway**” and so far we’ve seen how the world, the flesh, and Satan, works tirelessly in an attempt to try and get you and I off of the **Righteous path** that The Lord has set before us. But God is so faithful that although we may be unaware of the spiritual warfare that is going on around us, that doesn’t stop Him from **protecting us, fighting for us, and ultimately preserving us** to do His will and fulfill His glory.
- In Bible study we have been going over Israel travels in the wilderness, and how in order to get to their desired destination “**The Promise Land**”, they had to walk on a road called “**The Kings Highway**”. Now on this road it was beset with trouble, threats, and attacks from the enemy, but in order to get to where God told them to be they had to continue on it, and not detour off it.
- It’s the same for you and I when it comes to the Christian walk, as we also are on the road that God has called us to travel, and it is a path that is littered with trouble, threats, and attacks from our enemy as well, but despite all the opposition we face God has called us to continue traveling on it and not to get off it because it accomplishes two things > **1st our sanctification, and 2nd God’s glorification**, so we sojourn on regardless of what’s around us, behind us, or in front of us.
- Let’s see an illustration of this, one that is a good example for us to follow > **2 Cor 4:8-12- V8** the Phrase “**hard pressed**” has the idea of being surrounded, and hunted, the Apostle Paul was a wanted, hunted man because of what he was for Jesus > **Acts 23:11-16-** after the Lord had spoken confirmation that He would protect Paul and bring him to Rome, a group of men of at least forty had secretly taken an oath that they wouldn’t eat or drink until they murdered Paul.
- This was made known to those who were guarding Paul and eventually to Paul himself, but do you think that stopped him from doing what God called him to do, did he take a detour and get off of the path that the Lord had set before him because of these troubles, threats, and attacks? Of course not in fact living as a wanted, hunted man means terrible stress, anxious moments throughout the day and night, wondering is this the time in which they’ll come for me, and yet Paul says “**he wasn’t crushed by all this**” that he could still serve the Lord gloriously.
- You have problems, you have responsibilities, you have stress, well so did the Apostle Paul, and still he carries on the path that God has him even though that path is why he has so much trouble. **V9** he goes on to say He was “**perplexed**” confused sometimes as to what God is doing and which direction to take, but not in despair, persecuted but knowing that I’m not forsaken, struck down, and hurt sometimes, but not destroyed, and here’s the reason why.
- **V10-12** because he was always focusing on the Savior not the problems, and this allowed him to understand that the spiritual riches that God was producing through his life to bless the body of Christ was well worth the suffering that he was currently enduring.

- It was the Piano craftsman Theodore Steinway who said **“that it is forty thousand pounds of pressure, exerted on the two hundred and forty five strings of a piano that creates beautiful harmony”**. Sometimes it is only the pressure, the trials, the persecution we go through that causes a spiritual song to resonate in the hearts of those with whom we share with or have influence over. Paul understood this which is why he said **“good things are happening even in our tribulation and difficulty, for through our hardships Jesus is shining brighter”**.
- **2 Cor 4:16-18**- therefore means because of what’s just been said, or now that you understand this, **“you don’t lose heart”, “we don’t give up”**, we are in a race for life, whether you’ve just started running or you have been in the race for years, we need to keep running until we cross the finish the line, and that won’t be until God calls us home either through death or the rapture, so we keep serving, we keep sharing, we keep praising, because just as Paul began the chapter in the first verse > **4:1** we have this ministry, God’s given us mercy, we do not lose heart.
- This perspective enabled Paul to call what he is going through as well as what anyone will go through **“a light affliction”** still some might think your affliction might be light Paul but mine certainly isn’t. But what your missing with all this is Paul is not saying what you or I are going through God doesn’t care about, **(no)** what he is saying in comparison to the eternity that await us, the glory that will be bestowed upon us, the rewards that will be given to us, what were experiencing now is but a shadow, a scrape, a soon to be distant memory as these things are temporal while the things of God are eternal, so trials don’t last, but peace and joy continue on.
- This is coming from a man who is no stranger to problems and stress, Paul didn’t write this as some kindergartner in the school of suffering, remember he had an advanced graduate degree in the subject > **2 Cor 11:23-28**- having endured **1. Stripes, 2. Prisons, 3. Beatings, 4. Stoned,** and that’s not getting high either, **5. Shipwrecked,** just floating in the sea surrounded by sharks and all kinds of sea creatures at night where you can’t see what’s swimming around you, **6. Perils** means trouble from the gentiles, the Jews, counterfeit believers, thieves, on ships or on land, in the city, or in the woods, **7. Sleeplessness, 8. Hunger and thirst, cold and without proper clothing**
- Folks that was just the physical burdens he faced, what about the spiritual burdens he bore, and the spiritual attacks he faced that came from caring for the churches. This rich theology on perseverance was forged on the anvil of his own experiences from serving the Lord faithfully. Yes it is a deep cost to stay on the Kings Highway, and its been my experience that most people even within the church won’t be willing to pay the price that it will take, but for those who do we just read there is a great reward and blessing awaiting you if you just stay the course Amen!
- **Jer 6:16**- we read an encouragement from the Lord telling His people **“to stand in the ways and see, and choose for themselves the old paths where the good way is and walk in it, then you will find rest for your souls”**. God uses something that all of us can relate to, it’s a picture of a person who is standing at an intersection or a fork in the road, and he is observing, because he is trying to decide which way he will go. Now God has shown him the right path, the one that will lead to rest for his soul, but there are also alternative paths that he can choose to take.

- Sadly we read that the nation of Israel chose the alternative path, the one that doesn't lead to rest for your soul, but chaos and confusion in your heart. Everyone will face this choice, first for **salvation**, and even after you have been saved for **sanctification**, at each point there are crossroads, thankfully the Lord Who is faithful always shows us the path that He wants us to take that will lead to rest for our souls, the question is will we take it > **2 Pet 1:3-4**- God graciously provides for us everything that we need to live a life of Righteousness and Godliness.