

- I) V8-11 INTRO: For we do not want you **to be ignorant**, brethren, of our trouble which
REVIEW
- II) Paul had just told the Corinthians that God comforts us **in all our** tribulation (V4-5)
In V5 he referred to this as the **sufferings of Christ**
LET ME DEVELOP THIS
- III) What does he mean when he speaks of **the sufferings of Christ**
He is speaking of the troubles Jesus endured **on earth**
- IV) While on earth He was mocked, beaten, scourged, rejected, and ultimately crucified
Spiritually, He endured agony in the garden of Gethsemane
- V) This was **part of** how He suffered on our behalf so we could be **forgiven**
His sufferings were endured on our behalf, so we could be reconciled to God
Ro 5:10 For if when we were enemies **we were reconciled** to God through the
death of His Son, much more, **having been reconciled**, we shall be saved by His life
PAUL IS SAYING THAT JESUS SUFFERED
- VI) What makes us think that we won't?
Troubles are part of the Christian life, and we **can**, and we often **do**, suffer
This is something that we are prepared to do, and should not be taken by surprise
- VII) Troubles are part of the way that we learn **the deeper things** of walking with Jesus
It is through afflictions that the **draw of the world** in our lives is broken
It is how we learn to reject the things that distract us
- VIII) It is through difficulties that our vision of heaven becomes more clear
Afflictions purify our faith and help us to center on eternal matters
Ro 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings **are not worth comparing** with the
glory that will be revealed in us
- IX) The various troubles that we endure serve to prepare us for **eternity**
They drive us to our knees and purify our faith and our priorities in life
- X) In the end, we embrace whatever we experience knowing the result is good
We end up knowing God in a deeper and more personal way
1 Pe 2:21 To this you were called, because **Christ suffered for you, leaving you an**
example, that you should follow in His steps
SATAN OPPOSES THIS

- I) This means, **to follow Jesus** is to become a target of the devil
We come under fire, opposition, spiritual resistance, and attack
1 Pe 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
- II) This should not surprise us, as **there is a purpose** in the afflictions we experience
Ro 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also glory in our **sufferings** (afflictions), because we know that suffering produces **perseverance** (patient waiting), perseverance, **character**, and character **hope**. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
- III) Knowing that God is working in us as we endure afflictions strengthens us
We are prepared to endure struggles, and look in faith to the results
1 Pe. 4:12-13 Beloved **do not think it strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of **Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
PART OF THE RESULTS
- IV) V6 Now if we are afflicted it is for your consolation and salvation
You are **equipped** to be a comforter to others who too will go through hard times
- V) Paul's endurance was a testimony to them: Hang in there
Josh 1:9 Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.
FINALLY
- VI) V7 And our hope for you is steadfast because we know that as you are partakers of The depth of **consolation** we receive balances the depth of **suffering** we endure
Ro 8:16-17 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that **we suffer with Him**, that we may be also glorified together.
- VII) Our patient endurance in our tribulation when observed, encourages others
It also teaches them to encourage others, also
Jas 5:11 Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

- I) Paul continues addressing **some of the charges** being lodged against him
- II) Infiltrators had entered in, spreading lies to undermine him and his message
They knew if they undermined **his credibility**, they could discredit his message
- III) Because the message is salvation, Paul felt it necessary to answer his critics
He doesn't want to do this, but in this case, it is necessary
Pr 26:5 Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.
- IV) Under **ordinary circumstances**, it is normally best to not respond if not necessary
In this case, it is necessary because the message is being changed
- V) As we will later see, they are preaching a different Jesus and message
2 Co 11:4 For you gladly tolerate anyone who comes to you and preaches a different Jesus, not the one we preached; and you accept a Spirit and a gospel completely different from the Spirit and the gospel you received from us!
BEGIN STUDY
- VI) V8 We do not want you to be **ignorant** brethren of **our trouble** which came to us in
This trouble is unnamed: it may be a riot that occurred in Ephesus (Ac 19:23-41)
This uproar was over Paul's impact on idolatry, especially worship of Diana
- VII) V8 This trouble took its toll: **We were burdened** beyond measure, above **strength**
Paul was under incredible stress, weighed down **above human strength**
- VIII) Paul's message was setting people free from idolatry, and it effected the culture
People were leaving idolatry, and it effected the livelihood of idol makers
- IX) This prompted an idol maker named Demetrius to rally against Paul
He said the gospel turned people from idolatry, and destroyed their livelihood
The result was an uproar and the whole city was in chaos and confusion
- X) A mob seized two of Paul's traveling companions (Gaius and Aristarchus)
The mob rushed into the theater, and began shouting for two hours
Paul had to be restrained from coming to their defense, and departed
THE EFFECT
- XI) V8 We **despaired**: We had no escape and at a total loss; without resources

- I) The Corinthians were unaware of the toll it took on him, so Paul informs them of it
They knew he went through difficulties, but did not understand the **personal cost**
POINT
- II) Though you are aware of my **affliction**, you are ignorant of the cost **I have paid**
This is normal: how could somebody know all the details of somebody else's life
Spiritual **apathy**, **unawareness** or **immaturity** can blind us to the cost that is paid
PAUL SAYS
- III) V8 We were burdened, and we were despairing for life itself
In the face of this, I have remained faithful to Jesus and in my love for you
- IV) V9 Yes, we had the **sentence** of death in ourselves that we should *not trust in*
Sentence: A Judicial sentence, an official verdict with no hope of a reprieve
- V) We had **no human hope**: We were without strength to save ourselves
How vulnerable! It was at this point that God stepped in, and delivered him
Ps 116:8-9 For you, O LORD, have **delivered my soul from death**, my eyes from
tears, my feet from stumbling, **that I may walk** before the LORD in the land of the living.
WHAT DID HE GAIN
- VI) V9 That we should not trust in ourselves but God **who raises the dead**
Thought: God raises the dead, and was able to rescue Paul from death's grip
LESSON
- VII) What did God remind him of, and what does he want them to learn?
Do not trust in your own abilities to deliver yourself, but in His
- VIII) This is the heart of the Christian faith: Trusting in the Lord with all of our hearts
Jn 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him,
bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing**.
Phil 4:13
- IX) V10 Who **delivered** us from so great a death and **does deliver us** in whom we trust
Who **delivered**, does **deliver**, and **will deliver**: Past, present, future
- X) God has *been* faithful, *is now* faithful, and *will continue to be* faithful in the future
Ps. 34:4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my
fears.
2 Pe 2:9 the Lord knows **how to rescue** godly men from trials and to hold the
unrighteous for the Day of Judgment, while continuing their punishment.

- I) V10 God **delivered** us from so **great a death**
The death He delivered us from was one that was terrible to experience
Just the thought of this kind of death was terrible
- II) V10 God **does deliver** us
He continues delivering us from any present danger
- III) V10 in whom we trust that He **will still deliver** us
Though we are in constant peril, I know He will continue to deliver us
This gives me the confidence to continue proclaiming His message
- IV) V11 You also helping together in prayer for us that thanks may be given by many
God will continue delivering them because of their continuing prayer
- V) What he has endured may turn to blessings because of their prayer for him
He is comforted and encouraged by their prayers, and is encouraging more
- VI) Paul knew that God would continue to deliver him
2 Ti 4:18 The Lord **will deliver me** from every evil work and **preserve me** for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!
- VII) Paul knew that spiritual work was accomplished by prayer
Because this is true, he needed them to keep him in prayer
Eph. 6:19-20 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.
- VIII) V11 that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to
By requesting continued prayer, he was also reinforcing **their loving relationship**
- X) In telling them he had suffered much he is also provoking their affection for him
He is not asking for pity, but is reminding them of his selflessness
- XI) By telling them of his situation, he is informing them of the cost he has paid
He has put his life on the line for the gospel, and this should validate his ministry
- XII) They should not listen to the gossip of the false teachers who are attacking him

- I) The gift granted him **was deliverance** from danger as well as the suffering
- II) This brings us to **two more** of the charges that were lodged against him
In our first study I mentioned there were around 25 charges he answers
- III) We already saw the 1st charge: any suffering he endured was well deserved (V3)
Job 4:8 As I have observed, those who **plow** evil and those who **sow** trouble reap it
- IV) In the next verses, Paul responds to two more charges
2nd charge: V12 He is selfish and carnal
3rd charge: V13 He exaggerates his accomplishments, and is not plain speaking
- V) V12 This brings us to the place of addressing the **2nd charge** lodged against him
He was selfish, carnal and uses fleshly wisdom
- VI) These things they are saying are designed to steal the hearts of the people
This was because if they had their hearts, they could take advantage of them
2 Co 11:20 For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one **devours**
(**financially exploits**) you, if one **takes from you**, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you
on the face.
HE ANSWERS THE CHARGE
- VII) V12 Our **boasting** is this, **the testimony of our conscience** that we conducted
Boasting: Exultation, proud confidence, reason for boasting
- VIII) Paul had examined **his own motives** and trusted that they were pure
Job 23:11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.
- IX) The false teachers were claiming he used fleshly methods to entrap them
His message was filled with false promises of an easy salvation
Instead, he is saying his message is filled with the grace of God
- X) Though he was being judged by them, he knew that the ultimate judge is God
1 Co 4:3-4 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by
a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know nothing against myself,
yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.
- XI) Notice how he says **our boasting** is the testimony of our conscience

- I) **Conscience**: Distinguishes between what is morally good and morally bad
He could boast in many things, but instead boasted of his **clean conscience**
- II) For Paul, keeping his **conscience clean** was of utmost importance
Ac 24:16 I strive always **to keep my conscience clear** before God and man.
APPLICATION
- III) Part of the blessing of a clean conscience is it makes **confident teaching** possible
Hypocrisy undermines the power of the preacher as well as the message itself
- IV) This is one reason why he made it clear that teachers were to have good character
They were to be without reproach and a good reputation amongst non-Christians
1 Ti 3:7 Moreover he must have a **good testimony** among those who are outside,
lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil
- V) V12 He demonstrated this by living in **simplicity** and **godly sincerity**
Simplicity: Without selfishness, pretense, or hypocrisy
1 Co 2:4-5 My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith would not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power
- VI) **Godly sincerity**: Speaks of perfect **openness**, with purity of motive
1 Th 2:3-6 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. But as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, even so we speak, **not as pleasing men**, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness--God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.
- VII) V12 Not with *fleshly wisdom*: **Carnal thinking** that's not concerned with God's glory
Fleshly wisdom is grounded *in the flesh*: profit, pleasure, and worldly honor
It is based on devising plans to promote themselves, not the cause of Jesus
- VIII) Though his detractors said he relied on fleshly wisdom, the fact is that **he did not**
His response: His clean conscience was revealed in simplicity and godly sincerity
- IX) This is something that they could judge by **his conduct before them**
He lived out the message that he gave to them, and they saw it very clearly

- I) Paul's life was open, and he loved them, which is why he answered the charges
His words and his works lined up, proving he relies on the Lord completely
- II) He now responds to the **third lie** that had been circulated about him
The false teachers were saying he does not speak plainly, and exaggerates
HIS ANSWER
- III) V13 We are not writing any other things to you than what you **read** or **understand**
Ellicott: I have no hidden meaning in what I write, and you read. What you read
you read correctly, in its plain and simple sense.
- IV) There are no innuendoes: My speech is straight, and there are no hidden meanings
I am not trying to impress people with fantastic stories
I am not trying to insert my **personal opinions**, to make me seem important
I am not writing with worldly cunning, and am not evasive in how I minister to you
POINT
- V) You can trust what I have told you because I have no hidden motives or agenda
I am not fabricating stories to win your admiration, but **I am preaching Jesus**
1 Co 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to **preach the gospel**, not with
wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect
Ro 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for
salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Greek
- VI) V13 Now I trust you will understand, even to the end
I trust you will know that my teachings about Jesus can be trusted to the very end
- VII) V14 As also you have understood us **in part**
What I am telling you is something that you have partial knowledge of
My hope is that in telling you these things, you will understand my value to you
- VIII) V14 we are **your boast** as you also **are ours** in the day of the Lord Jesus
One day you will see that you have as much reason **to be proud of me** as I have to
be proud of you
- IX) When we stand before Jesus, we will be proud of each other
1 Th 2:19-20 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in
the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? **Is it not you**? Indeed, you are our glory
and joy.