



Today's Message

Date: September 30, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The Forgotten Lesson of the Cross*

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:8–11 (ESV)

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Introduction: In 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Paul laid out the principle that God comforts his people in times of affliction so that they, in turn, can comfort others. In today's sermon text, Paul applies that principle specifically to his own situation. In time of great affliction, the apostle found deliverance from God. From him we learn that . . .

I. Servants of Christ are not immune to affliction. 8-9a

- A. Christ's servants often experience affliction.
- B. Sometimes their affliction is extreme.

II. Servants of Christ experience affliction for a divine purpose. 9b

- A. God designs it . . .

B. for our good and his glory.

III. Servants of Christ find deliverance only in God. 10

A. We testify of deliverance yesterday.

B. We anticipate deliverance tomorrow.

C. We expect deliverance in the end.

IV. Servants of Christ must engage in mutual intercession in times of affliction. 11

A. We participate in what God is doing when we pray for each other.

B. We enlarge thankful praise to God as our prayers are answered.

Today's take-home truth: We must pray for each other—not to alter God's will, but to glorify it.

Conclusion: Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 1

1.Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own,
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death,
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,
and has set me free
from all the power of the devil.

He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together
for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit
he also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for him.