

John 270 “Dealing With Trouble In The Devil’s World” *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:8-18*

Knowing the outcome in the future, stabilizes the present.

Proper response to adversity, trouble or tribulation, allows us to successfully minister to others.

Victory is peace in Christ and we overcome the world as we abide in Him and share His peace that passes understanding!

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:8 tells us two things; 1. That such pressure as Paul describes is a means of fantastic blessing and 2. That this is God’s standard operating procedure for the Church Age Christian life.

As Paul walks with the Lord Jesus, he continues to have external pressure and these adversities in his life were ultimately designed for his blessing but the blessing depends upon his use of biblical truth in faith-rest.

We all constantly receive inner pressures and yet in Christ, we know, deep down that we are not ever going to be abandoned by Him.

The opposition or persecution generally comes from three sources in the Christian life when a believer reaches spiritual maturity.

- 1. Satan himself with his well-trained fallen angels [demons] and this is a major part of the intensification of spiritual warfare from the pre-historic angelic dispute;*
- 2. The opposition from those who profess the false doctrine of legalism;*
- 3. Where we produce our own persecution due to mental attitude sins which go on to produce a crippling self-induced misery.*

What Paul is saying is that inside of his body is his soul equipped with his self-consciousness where he is fully aware of Jesus Christ and he is continually occupied with Him, so that in his mentality, he has a completely relaxed mental attitude.

He has the capacity to love God as seen in his free-will decision to constantly make positive decisions according to the will of God.

*In his emotion, Paul has a vibrant intimate love for God from an appreciation for Him and His Word and in his conscience, he has divine standards, not human or satanic standards.*

The emphasis of the Cross is the dying of Jesus Christ; He did the work and the emphasis of Phase 2 in the plan of God is the life of Jesus Christ and just as the Holy Spirit mentored our Lord during His earthly ministry, when the Holy Spirit leads us, the life of Christ becomes apparent in us.

The Lord Jesus was indwelt by the Holy Spirit and that’s how He produced a certain type of life during His Incarnation and this life is now said to be demonstrated in us!

The Lord Jesus is seated at the right Hand of the Father and we are on this earth to represent Him as His ambassadors and because of Jesus our Lord, we are subjected to the greatest of all pressures as His representation on earth.

Remember, this is the intensification stage of the spiritual warfare of the angelic dispute making every Church Age believer the object or target of satanic attack.

*If we decide to follow Jesus as His disciples, we will always be delivered unto death with its maximum pressures but God has made provision for this.*

Note that Paul was not destroyed in verse 9 and therefore he got to Corinth and in verse 11 and he communicated things that produced the life of Christ in the Corinthians.

So maximum pressure was not only a source of personal blessing for Paul but his personal blessing overflowed to them in the communication of biblical truth and through that

communication, the very life of God became apparent in them so that they too were able to represent Him effectively as His ambassadors!

**Just as the Lord Jesus Christ has a resurrection body right now and He is in Heaven, we too are going to have resurrection bodies in the future, guaranteed!**

Paul is writing to the Corinthians, who are carnal believers at this point, so generally, they're in spiritual trouble and yet they are going to be at the Rapture and if the Corinthians are going to be there anyone can make it!

*Paul's light affliction is all the things which he is suffering for Jesus' sake and he says it is but for a moment!*

**Spiritually mature believers tend not to focus on the things which are seen [the details of life] but on the things which are not seen [biblical truth daily]: for the things which are seen [the details of life] are temporal [here today and gone tomorrow] but the things which are not seen [biblical truth] are eternal.**

This does not mean that Paul despises and avoids all the details of life; it means that he's not putting his emphasis on them because his emphasis is on the mind of Christ his Savior and the Word of His Savior's Father!