GOD IN THREE TENSES
Text: 2 Cor. 1:8-11

INTRO: In this text, Paul underscored the continuity of God’s concern for His saints: past, present and future.

I. PAST. “HE DELIVERED US FROM SO GREAT A DEATH.”
   A. Paul had suffered great affliction in Asia that seemed certain to end in death, vs. 8.

      McGarvey’s paraphrase: “When we asked ourselves ‘Can we possibly live?’ we were compelled to answer, ‘NO, we must die.’” Compare Acts 27:20

      I have fought with beasts at Ephesus (1 Cor. 15:32)

   B. When he thought death was certainly imminent he learned to trust more fully “in God who raises the dead.”

      1. Tho he was inspired he didn’t KNOW everything or foresee the results of every action. He had the same emotions, fears, problems as we do.

      2. But he trusted God to be the solution to his problems Compare Abraham, Heb. 11:17-19

   C. God had brought the apostle safely thru these many trials and problems.

II. PRESENT. HE “DOES DELIVER US.”
   A. At the time Paul was writing his letters to Corinth, Luke tells us: READ ACTS 20:1-3

   B. As he continued his journeys, thru prophetic revelations, the HS indicated more trouble to come.

      READ ACTS 20:22-24

III. FUTURE. “WE TRUST THAT HE WILL STILL DELIVER US”
   Note two key thoughts:
   A. We trust. Our part.
B. He will still deliver us. His part.
C. Application to ourselves.
   1. Past: If we have obeyed the gospel, MK 16:16; Acts 2:38
   2. Present: Daily gives us strength to overcome trials.
      a. temptations, etc., 1 Cor. 10:13
      b. READ HEBREWS 13:5-6
         The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations & to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment (2 Pet 2:9)
      c. continual cleansing, 1 John 1:7-9
   3. Future: As we continue to trust Him, He will yet deliver us into everlasting bliss & reward in heaven, 2 Pet 1:11; Rev 22:14

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Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 3, 2000