

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

Exton, PA, January 11, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 19, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 3, 2000