

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for April 19, 2009

“Down But Not Out”
2 Corinthians 1:8-11
Dale Whitehead

Where should we look for comfort?

We should look to God for comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Can we, if we go to God for comfort, be assured that we will find it no matter how many or difficult our trials?

No matter how many or how difficult our trials, if we would look to God for comfort, we will always find it (2 Corinthians 1:4a, 8-11).

God will comfort us, or in other words strengthen us, through His promises (Romans 8:28-30).

God can also comfort us by delivering us (2 Corinthians 1:8-11).

The specific nature of the affliction that came upon Paul and Timothy while in Asia is unknown to us.

The Corinthians, in contrast to us, did know about the specific nature of the affliction.

Though the Corinthians knew the specific nature of the affliction, they were unaware of the severity of it (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

Paul told the Corinthians that the affliction was so severe that they had been burdened excessively beyond their strength, or in other words, beyond their own resources (2 Corinthians 1:8).

Paul and Timothy saw the inevitable conclusion of the affliction that had come upon them in Asia to be death (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

The word translated “despaired” literally means “no passage,” “no way out,” or “no exit” (2 Corinthians 1:8).

The word “sentence” (APOKRIMA) refers to an official judgment, a legal decision, or resolution (2 Corinthians 1:9).

Besides the severity of the affliction, Paul did not want the Corinthians to be unaware of its purpose (2 Corinthians 1:9).

Paul told the Corinthians that the purpose of the affliction that had come upon them in Asia was to teach them not to trust in themselves but in God who raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:9).

Those who look to God for deliverance in the midst of their trials will never be disappointed (2 Corinthians 1:10).

Even though Paul was confident that he would continue to experience God's comfort, he asked for prayer (2 Corinthians 1:11).

May God give us the grace, not only to be comforted through His promises and by the hand of His deliverance, but may we, by our prayers of intercession, help others to find comfort as well.

May God give us the grace to continually and wholeheartedly come to Him for help in the time of our need so that we might be continually comforted in each and every trial that we might face.