

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 6, 2009

“Down But Not Out”
2 Corinthians 2:14

What do we learn from the Apostle Paul about ministry in 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 that will help us persevere when faced with difficulties?

We learned from the Apostle Paul that no matter how gifted we might be as a minister, the stresses, strains, and disappointments of ministry will at times become overwhelming (2 Corinthians 2:12-13).

We also learn that the sufferings that we endure as the captives of Christ in the performance of our ministry is the means by which His triumph over us is put on display (2 Corinthians 2:14-17).

The Greek verb, “THRIAMBEUOMAI,” is a very technical word and literally means “to lead in triumph” and conjures up a picture of a triumphal procession.

The triumphal procession that Paul envisioned in 2 Corinthians 2:14 would have conjured up the triumphal processions that were characteristic of the Romans.

When Paul pictured for us God’s triumphal procession in 2 Corinthians 2:14, he did not see himself as a conquering soldier, but rather as a conquered subject (Colossians 2:15).

When Paul identified himself in God’s triumphal procession as a conquered subject rather than a conquering soldier, he, in effect, identified himself with someone being led to death (2 Corinthians 4:8-12).

Paul was able to be filled with praise even though he saw himself being continually delivered over to death as a captive of Christ because he knew this was the means by which God’s triumph over him in Christ was displayed.

May God give us the grace in our death march as the captives of Christ to give Him praise knowing that our sufferings are the means by which His triumph over us in Christ is put on display.