

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

August 22, 2016

Pressed Beyond Measure?

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9 KJV – (8) For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: (9) But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.

Where Paul uses 'we' in this book he refers to himself. He was crushed (completely destroyed) similar to being sentenced to death by a judge. It is unclear what his trouble was... Some experts speculate that Paul was experiencing despair... a sense of hopelessness. Others feel that he was in physical danger, threatened by his enemies. Or, maybe it was both? Whatever the problem, Paul learned to not just lean on his own understanding – he learned to trust God. God is more powerful than death. God rescued Paul from that terrible situation and Paul knew He would free him from anything. God could even bring Paul back from death. Paul knew there would be dangers in the future; he asked the Christians at Corinth to pray for him and today, I ask the same. As God answers our prayers, we must give thanks to Him.

Bitter people do not thank God for who He is or for the things He has done... and it leads to darkened minds. This leads us down a slippery slope as a darkened mind follows a path towards more sin, eventually succumbing to an absolutely depraved state!

My brother or sister, be thankful!! Fill your heart today - and every day - with the peace of contentment and with the joy of gratitude. If you do, you will learn the secret to living abundantly in our pressure-filled world.

SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 1:3-13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When you do the common things in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.