

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

June 20, 2016

Restoration thru "Deliverance"

PSALM 17:13 KJV – (13) Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword.

In the New Testament, God is always the subject—and His people are always the object—of deliverance. The descriptions of temporal deliverance in the Old Testament serve as symbolic representations of the spiritual deliverance from sin which is available only through Christ. He offers deliverance from mankind's greatest perils—sin, evil, death and judgment. By God's power, believers are delivered from this present evil age (**Galatians 1:4**) and from the power of Satan's reign (**Colossians 1:13**). All aspects of deliverance are available only through the person and work of Jesus Christ, who was Himself delivered up for us (**Romans 4:25**) so that we would be delivered from eternal punishment for sin. Only Jesus rescues us from the "wrath to come" (**1 Thessalonians 1:10**).

Another aspect of deliverance concerns the temporal world. While believers are delivered once for all time from eternal punishment, we are also delivered from the trials of this life (**2 Peter 2:9**). Sometimes that deliverance is God simply walking through the trials by our side, comforting and encouraging us through them as He uses them to mature us in the faith. Paul assured the Corinthian believers that "no temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can "stand up under it" (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). In these cases, rescue is not immediate but in due time, after patience has had its perfect work (**James 1:2-4, 12**). God makes the way of escape simultaneously with the temptation which, in His perfect will and timing, He permissively arranges or allows for His people.

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 6:12-17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God will accept broken hearts – but you must give Him all the pieces!