

The Afflictions of Paul- Special Study



II Corinthians 11:23-25 Paul's Afflictions for the Gospel

- **Labours-** Greek means weariness, toil resulting in weariness, intense labor united with trouble and toil, to make work for someone in the thought of beating the breast with grief and sorrow. (I Thess. 2:9, I Thess. 3:5, II Thess. 3:8)
- **In stripes-** "above measure" from the Jews 5 times received forty stripes save one. Roman stripes received in Philippi.
- **In prisons** – First imprisonment was in Philippi. Most of his later years were in a Roman prison.
- **Deaths oft-** In life threatening situations most of the time. "took council to kill him" or "went about to slay him."
- **Once I was stoned-** Stoning (Acts 14) was usually a onetime experience resulting in death. II Cor. 1-4 possibly explains Paul's near death out of body experience after being stoned and the Lord bringing him back to life.
- **Thrice I suffered shipwreck-** "a night and a day in the deep" These 3 shipwrecks were prior to the Acts 27 storm. A night and a day may have been in a small boat or on a plank. The sun burned his skin during the day and suffered cold and blackness in the night.

II Corinthians 11:26 Eight Perils of Paul "in journeys often" – Missionary trips

- **Perils of water-** means perils of crossing rivers. Journeys on foot required crossing ragging rivers.
- **Perils of robbers-** Actual bandits who took all you have.
- **Perils of mine own countrymen-** Jews who were wicked in their plans, stirring up others and wanting to murder Paul.
- **Perils of heathen-** Gentiles who sought to kill him. Sentenced to prison by Roman authorities.
- **Perils in the City-** Suffered angry mobs.
- **Perils in the wilderness-** Suffered not only robbers but wild animals and lack of shelter, food and water.

- **Perils in the sea-** Suffering in the sea with fear of life, cold, and extreme exposure to the sun.
- **Perils of false brethren-** Fake brothers in Christ. Posing to be Christians and were not. A type of Judas Iscariot.

II Corinthians 11:27 External Physical Sufferings

- **Weariness and painfulness-** These words are combined to express “Labour” (see above) along with hardship and distress.
- **Watchings** – means sleeplessness caused by intently meditating or praying. He loved and grieved for the people and churches.
- **Hunger and thirst-** involuntarily lacking food and water.
- **Fastings-** Voluntary withholding food combined with prayer with an effort to seek an answer from God.
- **Cold and nakedness** – This falls under painfulness. His prior injuries of being whipped and beaten ached in the cold. Nakedness was involuntary suffering. Paul possible lost garments after being robbed, crossing rivers, shipwrecks, and beatings.

II Corinthians 11: 28 Internal Sufferings

- **Daily care of the churches-** This was the greatest mental strain for Paul. He labored, grieved, and worried about the churches holding the doctrine that was first delivered by the Apostle.

Grace Assembly School of the Bible, San Diego 2018