

Testing & the Way of Escape

February 6, 2005

***II Corinthians 1:1-11* – Paul talks about the goodness of God toward believers:**

- He is the Father of all mercies
- The God of all comfort - encouragement for the purpose of strengthening
- He comforts us in all our tribulations
- The more we suffer – the more comfort God will provide
- God gives us comfort, so we can comfort others suffering with the same comfort he gave to us
- Nothing God does is wasted – including our suffering has a purpose

Verses 8-11 Paul's encounter with death in Asia:

- They were tested beyond what they felt able to bear - came face to face with death
- They despaired even of life – gave up to die
- This was good in that they did not trust in themselves, but God who raises the dead
- And He proved to be that great deliverer – now they have faith to believe He will continue to deliver them.

Don't be like the Children of Israel in the wilderness – they provoked God to anger by their unbelief:

- God led them - He fed them - He sheltered them - He clothed them
- Then they doubted Him and His love, and devotion to them and would not go over into the promised land.
- God asked – how long will they provoke me - how long before they believe me

***I Corinthians 10:13* – God is faithful:**

- No test you might have is new - someone has already been through it – common to man
- AND GOD IS FAITHFUL
- He won't allow you to be test beyond what you can stand
- If He allows the test - He has provided the escape route
- That you may be able to endure and go through it
- Don't be so distracted by the test that you can't see the answer - like the Children of Israel