

Blessed Endurance, Jesus is Mine!

2 Corinthians 6:3-13

May 07, 2023

Paul lived a troubled life and some Christians in Corinth thought it might mean that God does not approve of his ministry. Did it?

1. A ministry of **removing** the “*stumbling blocks*” (vs.3)
2. A **tornado** of troubles met with “*great endurance*” (vs.4-8a)
 - a. “*in*” three sets of three (vs.4-5)
 - general** troubles, hardships, distresses
personal beatings, imprisonments, riots
 - private** hard work, sleepless nights, hunger
 - b. Interior strength to resist exterior pressures (vs.6-7a)
 - a deep and lasting character **transformation**
 - “*in the Holy Spirit . . . by the power of God*”
 - c. Defending his ministry without being defensive (vs.7b-8a)
 - Wielding *weapons of righteousness* (right **living**)
 - Alternately valued and devalued; slandered and praised
3. A ministry of paradoxes! How did Paul thrive? (vs.8b-10)
 - Not **denial** “This can’t be happening to me!”
 - Not smiling through clenched teeth
 - Not **grim** determinationTwo keys to joyful endurance
 - a. A firm grasp of the **obvious** “Life **is** tough.”
 - b. Never give up what you do know, for what you don’t know!
4. It takes at least **two** to be in fellowship (vs.11-13)

Not Paul’s plea to be liked, but to know his **heart**

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What trials have you endured as a follower of Jesus Christ?
2. Have you ever thought that “real Christians don’t suffer?”
Where does that idea come from?
3. READ Hebrews 11:32-38. Why do some Christians live by faith and experience tremendous victory while others are killed? What good is faith in God if He doesn’t protect you from persecution?
4. COMPARE Matthew 5:11-12 and Acts 5:40-42. How can the church prepare you to suffer—and endure—with rejoicing?
Send your ideas to leadershipteam@silvertonfirstbaptist.org
5. DISCUSS Romans 15:4-6. What’s a reason to read the Bible?
How does Scripture give you hope? Which specific stories encourage you to endure? How does God use His Word to create unity among His people? What do unified people do?
6. SHARE, THEN PRAY about what’s going on in your life now.
Circle the number that most closely describes how you feel.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ready to quit							enduring joyfully		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
crazy stressed							peaceful, calm		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
difficult to trust God							easy to trust God		