

“Desperate For Deliverance”
2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Introduction:

1. **IE:** In The Spring Of This Year, Two Women, Appel & Tasha Fuiaba, Set Sail On An Adventure Of A Lifetime! They Planned A Two-Month Voyage From Their Home In Honolulu To Tahiti, Taking Along With Them Their Dogs As Their Loyal Companions! However, During Their Planned Two Month Long, 2,700 Mile Journey, Their Engine Failed & Their Main Mast Broke, Leaving Them Stranded In The Middle Of The Pacific Ocean For 5 Long Months! They Experienced Shark Attacks & The Feeling Of Utter Hopelessness When There Was No Response To Their Distress Signals For 98 Days Straight! They Were Desperate! At Long Last, A Fishing Ship From Taiwan Spotted Them Drifting About 900 Miles South-East Of Japan, Well Off Their Planned Course! After Contacting The US Coast Guard, The USS Ashland Arrived Early The Next Day - Just This Last Wednesday, October 25th - To Rescue The Women And Their Dogs! When Asked If They Thought They Might Not Survive, Appel Said “It Was Very Depressing And Very Hopeless!” She Added - “There Is A True Humility To Wondering If Today Is Your Last Day, If Tonight Is Your Last Night!” They Were Desperate To Be Rescued! They Were Desperate For Deliverance!
2. Have **You** Ever Felt This Way?
 - Desperate For Some Kind Of Deliverance?
 - Some Kind Of Rescue? Any Kind Of Help?
 - As We Head Back To The Letter Of 2 Corinthians This Morning:
 - We Find The Same Kind Of Struggle & The Same Kind Of Desperation:
 - Even In The Life Of The Apostle Paul!
 - Because - In 2 Corinthians 1:8-11:
 - Paul Gives His Own Personal Testimony:
 - Of The Comfort That The Lord Gave Him:
 - Through One Of Most Difficult & Dangerous Trials Of His Life!
 - We Read - “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: / But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: / Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; / Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf!”
3. The Apostle Paul Himself:
 - Was No Stranger To The Struggles Of Life:
 - Or To The “Sufferings Of Christ!”
 - But, Through His Own Experience, He Wants You:
 - To Know That “The Lord Is Your Deliverer” No Matter What You Are Going Through!
 - So - When You Feel:
 - “Desperate For Deliverance” - What Can You Do?
 - Where Can You Turn?

* First:

1. **You Can Turn To The Lord!**
 - See This In Verse 8:
 - Where Paul Reminds The Corinthian Christians:
 - Of A Severe Trial & Affliction That He Faced:
 - Sometime During His 3rd Missionary Journey Through The Roman Province Of Asia!
 - “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!”
 - The Time-Period That Paul Is Describing:
 - Is Found In Acts 19:
 - When Paul Spent Around 2 Years In Ephesus & Traveled Throughout The Region!
 - And Even Though There Was Some Success For The Gospel:
 - There Were Still Some Great Struggles That He & His Companions Went Through!
 - There Were “Many Adversaries!” He Wrote In 1 Corinthians 16:9!
 - And So - Paul Wrote To Remind Them & Us About:
 - The Reality Of His Trouble!
 - “For We Would Not, Brethren, Have You Ignorant Of our Trouble Which Came To Us In Asia!”
 - Even Though We Are Not Sure:

- What The Precise Nature Was:
 - Of His “Trouble” Or “Affliction” Mentioned In This Verse:
 - Whatever It Was - It Was Real - And It Was Extreme!
- It Was Extreme In Its Strength!
 - It Was “Beyond Measure!”
 - It Was So Strong & Powerful That There Seemed To Be No Possible Way For Him To Escape!
- It Was Extreme In Its Suffering!
 - It “Pressed” Him Above & Beyond:
 - His Own “Strength!”
- It Was A Cruel:
 - And A Crushing:
 - Trial - That Was Just Too Much For Him To Bear!
 - In Fact - Look At:
- The Result Of His Trouble:
 - In 1:8 - “Insomuch That We Despaired Even Of Life!”
 - Paul - And Those With Him:
 - Thought They Were “Goners!”
 - They Thought That The End Had Finally Come!
 - The End Of Their Lives!
 - The End Of Their Ministries!
 - Perhaps Even The End Of The Church There In Asia!
 - And There Was Absolutely Nothing:
 - They Could Do!
 - In Fact - Look At:
 - The Resolution Of His Trouble:
 - In The First Part Of 1:9 - “But We Had The Sentence Of Death In Ourselves!”
 - Paul Concluded That There Was Nothing More He Could Do To Escape This Affliction!
 - And So - Paul Resolved That They Were About To Die!
 - He Was At The Door Of Death Itself!
 - Perhaps This Is How Appel & Tasha Felt:
 - When They Were Drifting In The Ocean:
 - As Days Turned Into Weeks, And Weeks Turned Into Months!
 - Paul Was Desperate!
 - Desperate For Deliverance!
 - What Could He Do?
 - Well - As We Find Out In The Rest Of 1:9:
 - “The Only Way Out – Was Up!”
 - He Needed To:
 - Turn To The Lord!
 - In Fact - It Is Clear - That This Is Why God Allowed Things To Get To This Point For Him!
 - 1:9 - “But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves!”
 - The Apostle Paul Needed To:
 - Turn To The Lord!
 - And So You Do You!
 - So Do I!
 - There May Be Times In Your Life:
 - When The Lord Will Allow Things:
 - To Get To The Point Of Complete Hopelessness & Desperation!
 - When You Feel As If:
 - You Have “The Sentence Of Death” In Yourself!
 - In Those Times:
 - You Need To Remember That:
 - “The Only Way Out” For You “Is Up!”
 - And Turn To The Lord!
 - But Then - As You Turn To The Lord:

2. ***You Can Trust In The Lord!***

- Again - 1:9 - “But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead!”
 - What Paul Needed:
 - God Alone Was Able To Provide!
 - Paul Needed To Be Rescued!
 - Paul Needed To Be Delivered!
 - So - Paul Put His Trust:
 - In “God Who Raiseth The Dead!”
 - Now - “Raising The Dead” Is Something Only God Can Do!
 - And This Is Something That God Has Done – Many Times Over!
 - When The Disciples Of John The Baptist:
 - Came To Jesus - In Matthew 11:3-5 - They Asked:
 - “Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?” – Then – “Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: / The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them!”
 - God Alone Has The Power To Raise The Dead!
 - Those Who Are Dead Physically!
 - Those Who Are Dead Spiritually!
 - And So - Paul Believed That God Alone:
 - Had The Power To Deliver Him!
 - And He Did!
- See This In 1:10 - “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us!”
 - Paul’s Trust & Confidence In The Lord Was Renewed!
 - It Was Renewed - Because Of:
- The Past History:
 - Of God’s Deliverance!
 - “Who Delivered Us From So Great A Death!”
 - God Delivered Paul:
 - From Whatever Immanent Danger He Was In!
 - In Fact - When God Rescued Him:
 - It Seemed To Paul That:
 - It Was Like God Had Even Raised Him Up From The Dead!
 - And Now - He Had A New “Lease On Life” – So To Speak!
 - **IE:** Remember The Story Of King Hezekiah?
 - 2 Kings 20:1-6 - When Hezekiah Was So Sick, That He Was Near Death - He “Turned His Face To The Wall, And Prayed!” - There Was No Way Out for Him, But Up – To The Lord! And What Did God Do? He “Heard” His Prayer & He “Saw” His Tears & “Healed” Him! The Lord Then Added “Fifteen Years” To Hezekiah’s Life!
 - The Lord Delivered Him!
 - And Every Single Day For The Next 15 Years, It Was As If God Had Raised Him From The Dead!
 - How Many More Times:
 - Did God Deliver His People From “So Great A Death!”
 - This Was The Basis For Paul’s Trust!
 - This Is The Basis For Our Trust!
 - “He Is Able To Deliver – *You!*”
 - Paul’s Confidence Was Also Renewed:
 - Because Of:
- The Present Help:
 - Of God’s Deliverance!
 - He Continues In 1:10 - “And Doth Deliver!”
 - That Is - God Continued To Help Him Through The Other Trials He Faced!
 - In 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 - Paul Describes Some Of His Other Trials - “Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. / Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; / In journeyings often, in perils of

waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; / In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness!”

- And Yet - Through It All - “God [Remained] His Refuge And Strength, A Very Present Help In Trouble!” (Psalm 46:1)

- Paul’s Confidence Was Further Renewed:

- Because Of:

- The Future Hope:

- Of God’s Deliverance!

- “In Whom We Trust – Hope – That He Will Yet Deliver Us!”

- Paul Knew That God Would Continue To Deliver Him:

- From The Power Of Death Itself!

- And This Is Why:

- You Too Can Trust In The Lord!

- Because He Is The “God Who Raiseth The Dead:”

- You Need To Realize That:

- Even If You’ve Never Experienced The Fear:

- Of “Mortal Danger!”

- You Do Have “The Sentence Of Death” In Yourself:

- Because Of Sin!

- Death Is The Universal Sentence For Sin!

- Romans 5:12 - “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned!”

- And So - Every Sinner Is Always In:

- “Mortal Danger” – And Even “Eternal Danger!”

- Hebrews 9:27 - “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment!”

- We Need To Be Delivered!

- From Our Sin! From Ourselves!

- And We Are Desperate & Hopeless:

- In And Of Ourselves!

- But That Is Why God:

- Stepped In - And Sent Jesus Christ:

- Who “Died *For* Our Sins According To The Scriptures!”

- And Then - Jesus Himself:

- “Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!”

- And Through His Power:

- As The “God Who Raiseth The Dead”:

- He Is Able To Deliver *You*:

- “From So Great A Death!”

- When You Turn To & Trust In Him!

- Then - Your Testimony Can Be Like Paul’s:

- 1:10 - “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us!”

- And Now - Every Day You Are Alive:

- You Have A “New Lease” On Life!

- That Is - You Can Walk In The

Newness Of Life That God Has Given You!

- As Romans 14:8 Says - “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s!”

- And You Can Trust In Him!

- But Then - Because Of His Ongoing Deliverance:

3. *You Can Thank The Lord!*

- 1:11 - “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf!”

- Even Though It Was God Who Delivered Paul:

- From The Danger Of Death:
 - It Was Also Accomplished Through The Prayers Of God's People!
 - And This Caused Paul To Be Very Thankful!
- Thankful For Prayer!
 - Paul Acknowledges That:
 - Prayer Was The Means God Used:
 - For His Deliverance!
 - Now - We Know - That God Is A Sovereign God!
 - And Yet - He Invites His People To Participate In His Work - Through Prayer!
 - Do We Understand Exactly How God Uses Our Prayers To Accomplish His Plan? No - But It Is Clear That He Does!
 - This Is Why Paul Writes In 1:11:
 - "Ye Also Helping Together By Prayer For Us!"
 - The Corinthian Christians:
 - Were "Laboring Together" With Each Other, With Paul, And With God Himself:
 - By Praying For Him!
 - So - God Used Their Prayers:
 - To Deliver Paul From The Danger He Faced!
 - And He Was So Very Thankful!
 - But He Was Also:
- Thankful Through Praise!
 - Because - He Knew That His Deliverance:
 - Was God's Answer To Their Prayers!
 - He Calls His Deliverance:
 - "The Gift Bestowed Upon Us!"
 - It Was A Gift Of God's Grace!
 - And So - Paul Also Realized That:
 - One Reason God Answered Their Prayer:
 - Was So That They Could All:
 - Join Together In Thanksgiving To The Lord For His Gracious Gift Of Deliverance!
- When You Remember God's Deliverance:
 - In Your Own Life:
 - You Need To Be Thankful!
 - Thankful:
 - For God's Use Of Prayer!
 - And Thankful:
 - For God's Answer To Prayer!
- This Is Why We Need To:
 - Keep Praying **For** Each Other:
 - And **With** Each Other!
 - A Principle We Find In This Verse Is This:
 - The More We Pray – The More We Will Praise! And - The More **Who** Pray – The More **Who** Will Praise!
 - So - When The Lord Answers Our Prayers:
 - Let Us Praise Him & Thank Him:
 - For His Great Deliverance!

Conclusion:

1. - **IE:** Many Of You Know Of The Story Of Corrie Ten Boom, Who Was A Member Of The Dutch Resistance To The Nazis During World War 2! She And Her Family Were Able To Provide Refuge For Scores Of Jews In Their Home & Watchmakers Shop. When They Were Betrayed & Arrested, She And Her Sister, Betsy, Were Deported To The Ravensbruck Concentration Camp. It Was There, During The Darkest & Most Trying Hour Of Their Lives, That Betsy Told Corrie These Words – "There Is No Pit So Deep That **He** Is Not Deeper Still!"
 - Even In That Deep, Dark Pit:
 - Of A Nazi Prison Camp:
 - God Was Their Deliverer!
2. David Understood This - When He Wrote:

- Psalm 40:1-2 - "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. / He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings!"
- God Was His Deliverer!

3. This Morning:

- You Need To Remember:

- That God Is Your Deliverer As Well!

- So - When You Find Yourself:

- In A Pit So Deep & So Dark:

- That You Feel Completely Hopeless & Desperate:

- Because There Is No Way Out!

- Turn To The Lord!

- Because "The Only Way Out For You – Is Up!"

- And Then - Trust In The Lord With All Your Heart!

- Say With David - Psalm 18:2 - "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and *my deliverer*; my God, my strength, in whom I will *trust!*"

- Matthew Henry - "Our Extremity Is God's Opportunity!"

- To Save! To Deliver!

- And Then - Thank & Praise The Lord!

- Thank Him For The Help & The Hope That Provides:

- Every Single Day Of Your Life!

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