

## Sermon NOTES

# Embracing Hardship for the Glory of God

### 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

10 Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**boast** – exult, to rejoice, to brag, to take pride in,

-It is not of exploits that he is proud, but of perils and sufferings;

-not of what he has achieved, but of what he has endured, for Christ's sake;

-in a word, not of strength, but of weakness.

-Paul here is boasting about things, which in the common judgment of men, would only bring...shame. *Expositor's Bible*

**Embrace** – accept, welcome, appreciate, to approve of, to be grateful for, to endure; to take or receive gladly or eagerly; to accept willingly

**Hardship** – adversity, lack, need, want, suffering, difficulty, oppression: a condition that is difficult to endure; something hard to bear; lack of comfort; constant toil or danger

**What does it mean when we say, “.....for the glory of God?”**

Well, let's 1<sup>st</sup> define the word “glory”

**Glory** – His goodness, magnificence, splendor, beauty, wonder, grandeur, brilliance and greatness, His dignity, His honor, His exalted state of being THE MOST HIGH...all that makes God God!

In a nutshell, His **being**, His **attributes** and His **acts** all together equals **His glory**

### Ex 33:18-22

18 Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" 19 And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

20 But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"  
21 Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock;  
22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

### **What does it mean when we say, ".....for the glory of God?"**

For us, to do something for the glory of God means.....that God is recognized, honored, exalted., pleased, etc. through our actions, deeds, doing; manner of living - lifestyle; what we think, say, and do as a force of habit - as a way of life] **and our character - meaning the honor, integrity, strength, uprightness and reputation of our character**

### **Steps to embracing hardship:**

#### **1. REALIZE THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT YOUR OWN, BUT FOR GOD'S GLORY**

- We don't belong to us
- We don't own us
- We don't have the right to do whatever we want
- We don't have the right to do whatever we feel
- We don't live for us
- We don't exist to bring us praise, honor and glory
- We don't exist to receive praise, honor and glory from others

### **Ps 4:3**

3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly man for Himself; The Lord hears when I call to Him.

### **Ps 100:3**

3 Know that the Lord Himself is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

### **Isa 43:21**

21 "The people whom I formed for Myself  
Will declare My praise.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19**

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?  
20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.

### **Acts 20:28**

28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

### **Romans 11:36**

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

### **2 Cor 5:15**

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

### **Titus 2:14**

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

### **1 Peter 2:9**

**9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION** [*peculiar people - The Greek word speaks of the unique, private, personal ownership of the saints by God. Each saint is God's unique possession just as if that saint were the only human being in existence - WEUST*], **so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

### **Rev 4:11**

**11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."**

### **Rev 5:9-10**

**9 And they sang a new song, saying,**

**"Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.**

**10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."**

### **Steps to embracing hardship:**

- 1. Realize that your life is not your own, but for god's glory**
- 2. REALIZE THAT TO LIVE IS CHRIST. I.E. TO LIVE IS NOT YOU/ME**

### **Philippians 1:20-21**

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

**21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.**

### **Phil 1:21**

**21 For to me** [as opposed to what others may think; according to my own experience; as I see it], **to live** [literal Gk. – *the living* - verb, present active] **is Christ** [literal Gk. *Christ*]

FOR ME TO LIVE, CHRIST..... MEANS

*Living, in my realization of it, consists only in union with, and devotion to, Christ. My whole being and activities are His - Ellicott via JFB*

He is everything

I have no life apart from Christ.

All my existence, all my being [naturally speaking, but more importantly, spiritually speaking] is in Christ and because of Christ in Christ alone.

**It is Christ Jesus who gives all definition** meaning, sense, significant, important, value, worth **to every part of my life**

**It is Christ Jesus who gives all direction** manages, controls, governs, guides, leads **every part of my life**

**It is Christ Jesus who gives purpose** [the reason for which something exists] **to every part of my life."**

I AM COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO CHRIST JESUS

I live only to **serve** Him,  
I live only to **commune** with Him,  
I live only to **love** Him.

I am **totally wrapped up** in Christ - **loving** Him, **knowing** Him, **preaching** Him and **serving** Him.

Christ is the **reason for my being**, the **reason for my existence**

Life is summed up as Christ.

I'm **filled** with Christ.

I am **occupied** with Christ.

I **trust** Christ,

I **hope** in Christ,

I **obey** Christ,

I **preach** Christ, I **follow** Christ,

I **fellowship** with Christ,

Christ and **Christ alone** is my **inspiration**, my **direction**, my **meaning**, my **purpose**

I am **consumed**, **dominated** and **devoted** to **Christ."**

**Colossians 3:4**

4 When **Christ, who is our life**, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

***Christ is the author of our spiritual life, the fountain from whence it [spiritual life] springs***

### **Galatians 2:20**

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

*BACK TO.....*

### **Philippians 1:21**

**21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.**

#### **Why is dying gain?**

*Because upon the consequence of dying Paul would be ushered into the presence of Christ Jesus his Lord.*

*Dying is gain because it will relieve Paul from the burdens of this life and free him to really glorify Christ, which is what I lived for, and to fellowship with Him, which is what I longed for.*

#### **Steps to embracing hardship:**

1. Realize that your life is not your own, but for god's glory
2. Realize that to live is christ. I.e. to live is not you/me
3. EMBRACE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY/ PROVIDENCE. I.E. GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL

#### **Sovereignty of God**

**Sovereignty** means God is the One who reigns

He is the sole controller

He alone is **independent** [self-sufficient, self-contained, self-reliant, self-supporting],

He alone is **autonomous** [not subject to the rule or control of another; subject to its own laws only];

He alone possesses **unilateral authority** [to perform an action OR decide without the agreement of another or others... i.e. one-sided action].

GOD ALONE HAS COMPLETE, ABSOLUTE dominion, rule, power and authority.

#### **1 Timothy 6:13-16**

**13** I *solemnly* charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and [in the presence] of Christ Jesus, who made the good confession [in His testimony] before Pontius Pilate,

**14** to keep all His precepts without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**15** which [appearing] He [God the Father] will bring about in His own time—He [God the Father] who is the blessed and only Sovereign [the absolute Ruler], the King of those who reign as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords,

**16** He [God the Father] alone possesses immortality [absolute exemption from every kind death] and lives in unapproachable light, whom no man has ever seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal power *and* dominion! Amen (so be it).

## **Providence**

The English term *providence* is derived from two Latin words: *pro*, which means “before,” and *vide*, which means “see.”

This refers to **God’s foresight..... God’s foreknowledge**

### **Romans 8:29**

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Jeremiah 1:5

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

### **1 Peter 1:1-2**

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

God **sees and knows the future**, having declared the end from the beginning.

### **Isa 46:9-11**

9 "Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

10 Declaring the **end from the beginning**,

And from ancient times things which have not been done,

Saying, 'My purpose will be established,

And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

11 Calling a bird of prey from the east,

The man of My purpose from a far country.

Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.

I have planned it, surely I will do it.

**God’s foreknowledge is not passive knowledge.**

MEANING, the Lord does not look at the future as if it were on a **movie screen** and **learn** what will happen;

....rather, His knowledge of the future comes from His **foreordination** [to **determine** or **decide** **beforehand** [in advance, ahead of time]] of whatsoever comes to pass.

He works out all things according to the counsel of His will (Eph. 1:11), which means **His will** establishes all that ever happens.

### **Eph 1:11**

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to **His purpose** who works **all things** after the **counsel of His will**,

From the Heidelberg Catechism of the sixteenth century,

**'Providence** is the almighty and ever present power of God by which **he upholds**, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them - that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty -- all things, in fact, come to us not by chance, but from his fatherly hand."

### **Heb 1:3**

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature and **upholds all things by the word of His power**. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Someone defines providence as **God's "constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation for His own glory....."**

### **THE LYON FIVE**

In the mid 1500 reformed preachers were coming to the city of Lyon, France, the second largest city, at that time, from Geneva, Switzerland holding meetings in secret places.

This resulted people following the pure preaching of the word

....and in 1551 there was a public demonstration, in the city of Lyon, of Calvinist who were persuaded of the truth of the gospel - parading through the streets of Lyon and singing songs as a testimony to their faith. This upset the city officials!!!!

A little over a year later, five young men who were students of theology in Switzerland, traveled to that French city, Lyon, for a visit.

While there they were accused of being Protestants and were arrested and jailed in the city of Lyon.

THIS HAPPENED because the officials in the city of Lyon we're "very sensitive" to the presence of protestants because of what happened a little over a year earlier.

These 5 students were arrested, put in prison and later sentenced to death. **LWC**

The Protestant leadership throughout Europe tried to intervene on behalf of these five young men....and for a while it appeared that they might be released and allowed to go back to Switzerland.

However, over time the city government became unyielding and would not release them.

Throughout this time, the arrest and imprisonment of the Lyon 5 spread throughout Europe – they were famous.

On May 15, 1553, John Calvin set out to write the Lyons 5 a letter of consolation.

He writes to these five young men to encourage them and to strengthen them in their faith - as he knew that in all likelihood they were facing execution for their faith.

And right at the beginning of the letter he recounts how he is aware that a number of people have tried to intervene to have these young men released.

Calvin writes...

My very dear Brothers:

We have at length heard why the herald of Berne did not return that way.

It was because he had not such an answer as we much desired.

For the King has peremptorily refused all the requests made by Messieurs of Berne, as you will see by the copies of the letters, so that nothing further is to be looked for from that quarter.

Nay, wherever we look here below, **God has stopped the way.**

Here, Calvin is writing a letter of consolation to these young men facing execution for their faith and says to them that God has prevented your release. God has stopped the way.

God has stopped the way!!

That's why you are in prison, that's why you are facing martyrdom. Your suffering is ultimately God's doing.

Is this biblical counsel?

**Lamentations 3:37-38**

Who has spoken and it came to pass unless the Lord has commanded it?

Is it not from the mouth of the most high that good and bad come.

**Lamentations 2:21**

In the dust of the streets live the young and the old.

My young women and my young men have fallen by the sword.

You have killed them in the day of your anger - slaughtering without pity.

God did it, not directly, not immediately, but this is something that has come from the hand of the Lord.

**Isaiah 45:7**

I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity. I am the Lord who does all these things.

**Job 1:21-22**

**21** He said,

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,

And naked I shall return there.



The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.

Blessed be the name of the Lord."

**22** Through all this Job did not sin nor did he **blame** God.

This is a reflection of how biblical people recognize the sovereignty of God in all things.

In all calamities – no matter how big or how small or personal.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND THERE SHOULD BE COMFORT IN THAT.

**WE DON'T HAVE TO BACK OFF FROM THE IDEA THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING - EVEN THE CALAMITIES OF LIFE**

**THERE SHOULD BE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT HE IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL!!!!**

**WHEN WE ARE SICK AND WEAK AND SUFFERING WE ARE NOT IN SATAN'S HANDS....**

**WE ARE IN GOD'S HANDS!**

**MEANING, WE ARE COMPLETELY UNDER HIS AUTHORITY!!!**

**THAT'S WHERE OUR HOPE LIES; THAT'S WHERE WE GET OUR COMFORT!**

**IS GOD STILL GOOD, HOLY????**

**Job 34:10**

10 "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding.

Far be it from God to do wickedness,

And from the Almighty to do wrong.

**Deuteronomy 32:4**

4 "The Rock! His work is perfect,

For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,

Righteous and upright is He.

**GOD DOESN'T DO EVIL, HE USES IT!!!**

**Concurrence** (**con**– together; **currence**–to run, to operate) – two or more motives/intentions/purpose, happening at the same time, but for a different **purpose** or **outcome** or **result**.

**Concurrence** then is how God brings **his sovereign will to pass** [the fulfilling of his plan and purpose] through secondary agents - through the will of a creature without violating [interfering with, to interrupt, to disrupt, to influence, to control] the will of the creature. Meaning, that our choices are really and truly our own.

**Concurrence** is God and human beings both operating at the same time, in the same event, without all parties having the **same intent**, all for the ultimate fulfillment of God's eternal purpose.

### **Proverbs 19:21**

**21** Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel (**purposes, eternal decrees**) of the Lord will stand."

**Moreover, the purposes of God, his counsels of old, or his eternal decrees, may be here meant**

**Confluence**— where two or more flowing bodies of water join together to form a single channel:

For example, the **Allegheny River** and the **Monongahela River** flow into the **Ohio River** in Pittsburgh. Eventually all three rivers flow into the **Mississippi River**.

Job's life is a good illustration of concurrence/confluence.

In **Job 1**, we read of **three major players** in Job's suffering.  
**SATAN, GOD, THE CHALDEANS AND THE SABEANS**

**Satan** instigated the suffering by issuing a challenge to God regarding Job's humility.

### **Job 1:8-12**

**8** The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

**9** Then Satan answered the Lord, "**Does Job fear God for nothing?**

**10** "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

**11** "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."

**God** allowed Satan to bring suffering into Job's life.

### **Job 1:12**

**12** Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

The **Chaldeans** and the **Sabeans** attacked Job's family and stole his livestock.

### **Job 1:13-19**

**13** Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

**14** a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

**15** and the **Sabeans** attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

**SKIP TO VERSE 17**

17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The **Chaldeans** formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

By the way, "no weapon formed against you shall prosper...."!

**Isa 54:11-16**

11 "O afflicted **one**, storm-tossed, and not comforted,  
Behold, I will set **your** stones in antimony [**that which enhances the luster, the beauty of the stones**],

And **your** foundations I will lay in sapphires.

12 "Moreover, I will make **your** battlements of rubies,

And **your** gates of crystal,

And **your** entire wall of precious stones.

13 "All **your** sons will be taught of the Lord;

And the well-being of **your** sons will be great.

14 "In righteousness **you** will be established;

**You** will be far from oppression, for **you** will not fear;

And from terror, for it will not come near **you**.

15 "If anyone fiercely assails **you** it will not be from Me.

Whoever assails **you** will fall because of **you**.

16 "Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals

And brings out a weapon for its work;

And I have created the destroyer to ruin.

17 "No weapon that is formed against **you** will prosper;

And every tongue that accuses **you** in judgment **you** will condemn.

This is the heritage of the **servants of the Lord**, [the people of God]

And **their** vindication is from Me," declares the Lord.

So, there were **three primary actors** in Job's suffering.

**SATAN, GOD and the CHALDEANS and SABEANS**

But the **intent** of each individual concerning Job's suffering—was different.

**Satan's** intent was to discredit [harm the good reputation of (someone)] Job and in doing so discredit God.

The intent of the **Chaldeans** and **Sabeans** was to enrich themselves.

Our **FATHER GOD'S** intent was to prove and defend Job's faith.

All three players were involved in Job's suffering, but at different levels and with different motivations.

Let's go back to the example for "**confluence**"

For example, the **Allegheny River** and the **Monongahela River** flow into the **Ohio River** in Pittsburgh. Eventually all three rivers flow into the **Mississippi River**.

There was a concurrence/confluence among them that Job should suffer, but each had a different reason for his suffering.

God's intent was good. The other players intended evil.

#### **Genesis 50:20**

20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

#### **Acts 2:23**

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

#### **Acts 4:27-28**

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

CALVIN CONTINUES IN HIS LETTER TO THE LYON 5....

Since it pleases Him to employ you to the death in maintaining His quarrel, He will strengthen your hands in the fight and will not suffer a single drop of your blood to be spent in vain.

And though the fruit may not all at once appear, yet in time it shall spring up more abundantly than we can express.

But as He hath vouchsafed [to give, to grant] you this privilege, that your **bonds have been renowned** [known, talked about by many people, famous], and that the **noise of them has been everywhere spread abroad**, it must needs be, in spite of Satan, that your **death should resound** far more powerfully, **so that the name of our Lord be magnified thereby**.

For my part, I have no doubt, if it please this **kind Father** to take you unto Himself, that he has preserved you hitherto, in order that your **long-continued imprisonments** might serve as **a preparation for the better awakening of those whom He has determined to edify by your end**.

For let enemies do their utmost, they shall never be able to bury out of sight that light which God has made to shine in you, in order to be contemplated from afar.

**Lyon 5 died just days after Calvin wrote this letter.**

**God used their death along with other circumstances to bring millions to Himself through the reformed church of France over the next 10 years!!!**

**Their death glorified God!!!!**

### John 21:18-20

18 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"

### THIS KIND OF FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD OUR FATHER IS NOT AUTOMATIC!

- It has to be cultivated
- It has to be encouraged
- It has to be built up
- We have to learn to be a trusting people
- We have to learn that we can trust and rely on our heavenly father

### Calvin goes on to write....

Even so, my brothers, be confident that you shall be **strengthened, according to your need, by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus**, so that you shall not faint under the load of temptations, however heavy it be, any more than he did who won so glorious a victory..... Now, at this present hour, necessity itself exhorts you more than ever **to turn your whole mind heavenward**.

But since it appears as though God would use your blood to sign His truth, there is nothing better than for you to prepare yourselves to that end, beseeching Him so to subdue you to His good pleasure, that nothing may hinder you from following whithersoever **he shall call**.

The FIVE prisoners of Lyon died faithfully and with bravery

The Lyon Five were so courageous, so bold, so full of faith, that as they were marched out to be **burned alive**, they sang the Psalms that they had learned and cherished –

### **Psalms 68:1-8**

1 Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered,  
And let those who hate Him flee before Him.

2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
As wax melts before the fire,  
So let the wicked perish before God.

3 But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God;  
Yes, let them rejoice with gladness.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name;  
Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts,  
Whose name is the Lord, and exult before Him.

5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows,  
Is God in His holy habitation.

6 God makes a home for the lonely;  
He leads out the prisoners into prosperity [*that is what was happening to the Lyon five. They were being led into prosperity*],  
Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Calvin comments, “By really coming to understand the Psalms, we will learn how to bear the cross.

We will learn how to follow in the steps of our Savior

We will then renounce the guidance of our own affections  
and submit ourselves entirely to God, leaving him to govern us and to dispose of our life  
according to his will...

....so that the afflictions which are bitterest and most severe to our nature, become **sweet** to us  
because they proceed from him.”

What a tremendous goal for our faith to get to the point that we can say to our heavenly Father,  
“no matter how bitter, no matter how severe the trial, this is good for me because it comes from  
your hand!!!!!!!!!!

Actual biblical accounts of the **LYON 5**:

### **THE FIRST MARTYR in recorded history**

#### **Genesis 4:8**

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up  
against Abel his brother and killed him.

#### **1 John 3:11-12**

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one  
another;

12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay  
him? **Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.**

### **The Babylonian 3**

#### **Dan 3:8-30**

**Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah**

#### **Phil 1:12-18**

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really **served to advance the  
gospel,**

13 so that it has **become known throughout the whole imperial guard** and to all the rest that  
my imprisonment is for Christ.

14 And most of the brothers, **having become confident** in the Lord **by my imprisonment**, are  
**much more bold to speak the word without fear.** *by my imprisonment*

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in  
my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and  
in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

### Steps to embracing hardship:

4. Realize that your life is NOT your own, but for God's glory
5. Realize that to live is Christ. I.E. To live is NOT you/me/us
6. Embrace God's sovereignty/providence that HE is always in control
7. Realize that in the end, all things work together for our good in time and God's glory in eternity

### Romans 8:28

**28 And we know** with absolute settle assurance and absolute confidence **that for those who love God** who are obedient to His word, to His will and to His way, **God causes all things to work together *sunergeo***, from the English term **synergism**, the working together of various elements to produce an effect/result/outcome greater than, and often completely different from, the outcome of each element if they were to act separately. For example, ordinary **table salt** is made up of two poisons, **sodium** and **chlorine**. fitting into his plan and purpose **for good** our good in time and His glory in eternity **to those who are the called** the elect **according to His purpose** His design.

### Ps 25:10

**10 All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth**  
**To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

### 2 Cor 4:15-18

15 For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we **do not lose heart**, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For **momentary, light affliction** is producing for us an eternal **weight of glory far beyond all comparison**,

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### 1 Peter 5:10-11

10 After you have **suffered for a little while**, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you**.

11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

How about this one – even if you have sinned....He still rewards..... He still works it out for our good!!!!

### Hebrews 12:4-7

5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

"my son, do not regard lightly the **discipline of the lord**,

Nor faint when you are **reproved by him**;

6 for those whom the lord loves he **disciplines**,

And he **scourges** every son whom he receives."

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? SKIP TO VERSE 11

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it **yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.**

SO EVEN IF YOU HAVE SINNED, GOD WILL STILL WORK IT TO YOUR GOOD.

**Steps to embracing hardship:**

1. **Realize that your life is NOT your own, but for God's glory**
2. **Realize that to live is Christ. I.E. To live is NOT you/me/us**
3. **Embrace God's sovereignty/providence that HE is always in control**
4. **Realize that in the end, all things work together for our good in time and God's glory in eternity**
5. **RECOGNIZE GOD'S PURPOSE FOR TRIALS**

**James 1:3**

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

**knowing** to acquire information by the agency of personal involvement or experience; to obtain accurate and thorough information about - 'to learn about accurately, to get detailed information, to examine thoroughly.'

to come to understand the meaning of something, with special emphasis upon the process - a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end; that the testing dokimon – to prove, to try, to appraise, to evaluate the genuineness, legitimacy, validity of your faith of your faith trust, absolute confidence, being fully convinced in the person and power of God produces brings about, "works," "achieves," "develops." endurance to bear, to suffer, standing fast; to accept or allow oneself to be subjected to especially without giving way

to know in the sense of realizing, to become aware of the fact; to recognize, to perceive, to understand completely!!! HOW DO YOU COME TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND? THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE; this word carries the idea of a full understanding of something that is beyond the mere factual and is usually experiential - comes from personal experience;