

Introduction- MANY PEOPLE TODAY HAVE FALSE HOPES OF PHYSICAL PROTECTION FROM GOD

1. Paul was blessed of the Lord with many great deliverances & miraculous escapes
2. Many today look to these, and think that the Lord has Promised them physical survival-
3. Paul counted them as suffering for the Glory of Christ, and finally gave his life to the edge of the sword- So we today need to learn when to expect deliverance & when not to.

I.- MEN MIGHT THINK THAT PAUL LIVED A CHARMED LIFE - survey Acts- and great deliverances

The OT as well as the NT has many accounts of great deliverances and protection

- A. But we want to look only at the life of Paul and the Book of Acts
 1. 9:20 Paul began to preach Christ- and in 24 his life was in jeopardy, 25 his friends let him over the wall in a basket from Damascus to save his life.
 3. 14:19 Outside Iystra Paul was stoned, left for dead, yet his friends found life in him.
- B. 16:25 Paul was imprisoned, and sang and prayed the walls down, then saved life of Jailor!
 1. 21:31 In the Temple at Jerusalem, only the quick intervention of Soldiers saved him.
 2. 23:12 a Group of men took avow not to eat until they had killed him. (probably got hungry too)
 3. 23:23 a troop of Roman Soldiers protected him by might and stealth.
- C. 25:10-11 He appealed to Caesar's Supreme court to save himself from danger
 1. 27:42 God's advise saved him from Shipwreck, and a friendly Centurian saved him from swords
 2. 28:3 God's power saved him from the bite of a viper- v.6 unharmed- thought to be charmed.
 3. But no where in this did Paul show any arrogancy, or tempt God, by his own recklessness

II.- PAUL COUNTED THE SUFFERINGS, AND DELIVERANCES ALL AS GLORY FOR CHRIST**

A. II Cor. 11:24- 12:12 PAUL RECOUNTS HIS ADVENTURES AS AN APOSTLE

1. Some would choose the Apostleship because of its great privileges, or barter with God
2. As proof of his apostleship Paul boasts of his suffering, and his own weakness
3. We are far more weak- should we expect any life of greater ease than Paul?

B. ACTS 20:23-24 PAUL WAS WARNED BY THE SPIRIT, BUT PRESSED FORWARD FOR THE LORD

1. He counted not his lifedear- that he might finish his course with joy
2. His assurance and confidence is shown in V.26-8
3. Like those in Hebrews 11:35- he refused to accept deliverance to obtain a better resurrection.

B. WITH ALL HIS GREAT DELIVERANCES THERE WAS ONE HE MISSED* OR DID HE ?

1. II Tim 4:6-9 He wrote to Timothy that the time of his departure was soon
2. Twice he stood before the Roman court- charged with the burning of Rome by Nero - he lost.
3. Outside the walls of Rome- God did not deliver him from the bite of the Sword- or did He?

If it is God's purpose to deliver from the sword- He has failed- Stephen, James,

III.- WHAT OF YOUR HOPE* IS IT FOR PHYSICAL SALVATION?

Yesterday- I talked with George

A. MANY PEOPLE TODAY INTERTAIN FALSE HOPES OF PHYSICAL SURVIVAL

McChastney

- A. 1. Some-even in great sin- expect God to deliver them- & speak of "Thier Time", & "God's Will"
2. Study the Scriptures- God has not promised you another breath, or any "deliverance"
3. The three Hebrew Children said God could deliver them, but they did not say that He would!
3. In God's provision for free will- his predestination is foreknowledge- not destiny!

B. MANY CHRISTIANS, AND MOST ALL MODERNISTS SEEK PHYSICAL SURVIVAL AT AL COSTS !

1. The peace movements, Civil Riots movements, Social Welfare movements- founded on unbelief
2. Some are so "Worldly" minded that they sell their soul for potage / in Sternity or in
3. Some are so "Idealistic" that they commit physical suicide ^{Some die} / resurrection!

C.- WILL YOU COUNT YOUR LIFE DEAR FOR CHRIST?, BUT NOT FOR SELF? ^{Set worldliness & ambition}

1. Acts 20:23 - let it be your motto - whether martyrdom- or one of the 106,000 Americans
2. Claim all God offers you through faith- but nothing falsely! / to die by accident-
3. Let your record show that you are ready to meet the Lord any minute-

Believe, Testify, Work, and Live so that men will know you love Christ more than yourself

Concl. IF YOU WILL LET YOUR LIFE COUNT FOR CHRIST, THEN YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON CHRIST!

1. Confess Christ Publically as your saviour! Let people know of your faith- maybe God doesn't yet
2. Be an active, participating member of a local church! The Church is for God & by Him.
3. You are a steward of your life- find out what God wants of you- and live your life for Him.