

## “HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP IN MINISTRY?”

(2 Corinthians 4:7-12)

### A. The Contrast of Human Suffering and Divine Enabling in Ministry (2 Cor. 4:7-12)

1. As Christians, we are the “\_\_\_\_\_ vessels”; and the “*treasure*” that each one of us possess’ is the \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 7a)

\* Why did God choose to use breakable chamber pots to carry His life-transforming treasure? (v. 7b)

2. Drawing examples from his own experiences in ministry, the Apostle Paul pointed out four specific ways in which the weakness of his earthen body contrasted with God’s almighty power. (cf. 1:5, 10)

- a. “***hard pressed on every side***” – This participle is related to *thlipsis*; it was used of enormous \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 8)
- b. “\_\_\_\_\_ (*alla*) \_\_\_\_\_!” We are not cramped nor straightened.
- c. “***we are perplexed***” – This participle speaks of being at a \_\_\_\_\_, being in \_\_\_\_\_ as to which way to turn, to be in dire straits.
- d. “\_\_\_\_\_ (*alla*) \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_!” There is a play on Greek words, “*We are perplexed, but not utterly perplexed.*”
- e. “***persecuted***” – This participle means to \_\_\_\_\_, aggressively \_\_\_\_\_ someone down who is running, in order to harass or mistreat him. (v. 9)
- f. “\_\_\_\_\_ (*alla*) \_\_\_\_\_!” Through it all, God never abandoned Paul to his own inadequacies, but rather He was there with him all along the way.

g. **“struck down”** – This participle speaks of how once the pursuers caught up, Paul and his companions were \_\_\_\_\_ to the ground.

h. “\_\_\_\_\_ (*alla*) \_\_\_\_\_!” The missionary team was not utterly abolished, nor did all of them perish.

3. All of these statements humbly demonstrate that to be at the end of \_\_\_\_\_ does not mean you have exhausted God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

4. You and I certainly have a physical \_\_\_\_\_ while serving in ministry; but on the other hand, we have the indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ God to sustain us.

5. With the *hina* purpose clause, Paul gives us the divine reason as to why we may live with the ongoing liability of persecution or even death; it is to \_\_\_\_\_ people to \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 10, cf. 1:5-6; 1 Cor. 15:31; Philip 3:10)

6. As the Apostle Paul allowed himself to be persecuted and even ultimately put to death, he \_\_\_\_\_ the fate of His Savior; consequently, the crucified and risen Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ in his body. (vv. 11-12, cf. Rom. 8:36; Col. 1:24)

\* What can you personally apply from this passage?