

↓ **THIS WAY UP** ↓
(2 Corinthians)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
Mark Floyd – 2009 June 21
Series No. MF-2COR-02

WHY SUFFER ?
(2 Corinthians 1:9-11)

WHO TO TRUST ? (9)

- Paul and Timothy were often subject to challenges that were beyond their abilities, so that they would trust God and not themselves (*Gal 2:20; Php 3:3*)

GOD DELIVERS (10)

- God is able to do what we cannot; He raises the dead and delivers us from eternal death – He can deliver us from any peril (*Php 4:13*)

PRAYER HELPS (11)

- Notwithstanding God's omnipotence, we are called to pray for one another – that God will supply what we truly lack (*Rom 15:30-32; Col 4:12; James 5:13-18; Luke 11:5-10*)

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

(James 5:16)

Application

As disciples of Jesus Christ, Christians are not exempt from difficult times. In fact, they are part of our calling.

When things “go our way” we naturally live in the sphere of our own abilities, both physical and intellectual. Trusting in ourselves is not the path of spiritual growth – in fact, owing to our flawed nature, self-trust is the path of destruction. As we live the Christian life, numerous and varied challenges will impair and block the path of self-trust, so that (out of necessity) we will go down the path of faith in Christ.

What challenges have you faced as a Christian? What burdens are you presently carrying? Perhaps unfair treatment at work? In peril of losing your job? Illness? Persecution from co-workers, neighbours or relatives? Burdened by concern for your family? Lacking financial security? Stressed-out to the point of sleeplessness? Worried about your church family? Disappointed in yourself? Whatever the peril, God has the ability to meet your true needs. Who will you trust? Yourself or Christ? Continue to pray for one another.

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”
(Proverbs 3:5-6)*