

Bailey
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Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- II Corinthians 4:8. "We are perplexed, but he is not in despair."

Introduction:- Many people are perplexed these days. They are bewildered about many things. The Webster's dictionary tells us that the word "perplexed" means "bewildered, confounded, confused, distracted, embarrassed, entangled, tormented". These are some of the things we think of when a man's mind is perplexed. He is bewildered. He doesn't know what to do.

Many people, even great men, have faced moments when they were bewildered, perplexed, tormented, distracted, and didn't know what to do. If you have not faced that experienced, you will face it.

Paul says a Christian may face bewilderment and be perplexed, but the Christian is not in despair. If we look up the word "despair" in the dictionary, we find that it is a tragic word. Despair is hopelessness, but it is more than that. A man can be in a hopeless state and be sort of passive. But when a man is in despair, something terrible has got hold of him, something very positive. When a man is in despair he is drinking from the very bottom of the cup of disillusionment, of utter hopelessness. Paul says a Christian does not reach that stage. He may be perplexed, bewildered, but he is not left in despair.

The word "why" - is often asked of a minister. People with tears in their eyes, and anguish in their voice say, "Why does this have to happen to me? Why does God deal with me this way? Why do godless men and women have good health when good men are sometimes sick in body? On and on the questions go. People are perplexed.

I.

Well, the apostle Paul gives us some answers.

He says first of all, "Remember you are finite. You are not supposed to understand everything. You are not God. You are not all-wise. You are not infinite. You are a creature with marked limitations. Things that are clear to God are not clear to you. Remember, that now you see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. All will be made plain and certain in that day.

If we had infinite understanding with this mortal body, we would die within two minutes. If you knew the heartaches, the tears, the future, and knew as God knows, the knowledge of it all would kill your body. It could not stand up under the anguish. For a few brief moments Christ bore the sins of the world, and he died, not of the thorns or nails driven through his hands but of a broken heart.

God is merciful, and drops a veil across our face many times and will not let us understand all the mystifying things of life.

Have you ever seen all the wires and gadgets that are required to build a television machine. Did you understand what you saw? When I have trouble with my T.V. set, I take it to a reliable T. V. man. He explains the trouble and I try to act intelligent and say, "yes sir. O I see", but I am just as mystified as ever. All the mechanism looks like a tangle mass to me, but it is not. Everything follows a pattern; everything is needed, and it is not mystifying to the T.V. technician who understands it all.

I am glad there is a Master Technician who knows why things happen as they do. I can but say, "Lord, I can not understand it. I am not supposed to understand it.

II.

So when you feel bewildered, don't feel too discouraged about it. Many people have been bewildered at times. Paul was. Job was. But they trusted in the Master Mechanic. They took their T. V. set to God and said, "Lord, I am bewildered.

God. And God after a while repaired it; he always does. Sometimes he keeps it for three weeks or even six months, but when he gives it back, it plays ~~xxx~~ sweeter melodies than ever before.

Second, let us remember that perplexity is a good thing for man. If we knew everything, what would we study, what would we read? If we understood the solution to every problem, what would we pray about? What would challenge us? Life would be meaningless. It is only as you are challenged with a problem that life becomes fascinating and you are determined you are going to find the answer. There is a thrill that goes with meeting and solving problems, hard problems, with doing things that cannot be done.

Look at the man who has gone through sorrow in the right spirit. There is a sweetness, a tenderness, something of refinement about his spirit and character that men covet, but he paid a price for it. He went through bewildering experiences that he might know it.

May a man who has gone through trouble look back on it later and say, "That was the happiest period of my life because God was with me in such a special way and I proved his promises true."

Conclusion:- If you are passing through perplexity, do not despair. Do not quit. Believe in God. Paul said, "Cast not away your confidence which hath great recompense of reward. Be faithful and stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Do not be troubled."

Let me read II Cor:4:8 again. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

A man, who believes God, and waits upon God will someday stand in the congregation and testify, "God has answered my prayer. God has brought me out of the night and into the light. He has put a new song into my mouth and a new joy in my heart. Do not despair. Believe in God."

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