

Eleutheros Newsletter

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News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

Is there anything more important to you than your eternal salvation?

Here is your invitation to understand salvation.

You Can Learn at Your Own Pace and Choose the Course of Study

(CURRENTLY OFFERING)

[The Ramifications of Our Salvation 101](#)

[The Ramifications of Our Salvation 102](#)

Very soon a course on I Corinthians will be available!

Thoughts from Romans

1:1 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God.*

In previous newsletters we have looked at some interesting facts about Paul. Here are a few more to consider:

Although Paul was often quite bold in dealing with situations in his ministry, he also knew how to write a very diplomatic epistle (see the book of Philemon regarding a runaway slave named Onesimus).

He had a spirit that would not allow itself to stop serving God even though the circumstances often were very difficult: *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; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body (II Corinthians 4:8-10).*

Paul was certainly not a stranger to suffering: *Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not (II Corinthians 11:23-29)?*

Many things could well be said about the intense suffering that he endured, but perhaps the most challenging issues were *perils among false brethren* and *the care of all the churches*. Anyone who has been in ministry has had to deal with similar things occasionally, but Paul seemed to face these problems regularly. Imagine the stress these things caused him!

Paul was very strongly opposed against false teaching (Galatians 1:8-9; I Timothy 1:3; 4:1-5; II Timothy 3:1-7; 4:1-5).

He believed in church discipline when the situations called for it (I Timothy 1:20; I Corinthians 5:1-7), even occasionally naming an offender (II Timothy 2:17; 4:10, 14).

Paul had an intense love for the Jews, even though they had so often rejected the Gospel message he preached to them (Romans 9:1-4).

He had a serious bout of depression but ended up trusting in God: *For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in*

ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead ([II Corinthians 1:8-9](#)).

How amazing to read in these verses, that Paul “despaired even of life” and “had the sentence of death,” but learned to not trust in his accomplishments, but in the God he so faithfully served!

Probably the simplest way to summarize the life and ministry of Paul would be to say he was “addicted to the Gospel” as his co-worker Stephanus was ([I Corinthians 1:15](#)). As he said, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel” ([I Corinthians 9:16b](#))!

Having presented the good news so faithfully to so many thousands of people for many years, he knew that the Lord, “the righteous Judge,” would present him with “a crown of righteousness” ([II Timothy 4:8](#)).

Suffering tends to make one *bitter* or *better*. Paul’s unwavering faith brought about amazing victories! May we learn from his example!

We will continue **Thoughts from Romans** in the next newsletter.