

Rebuilding *for* God's People

*A Study of Nehemiah
and 2 Corinthians*



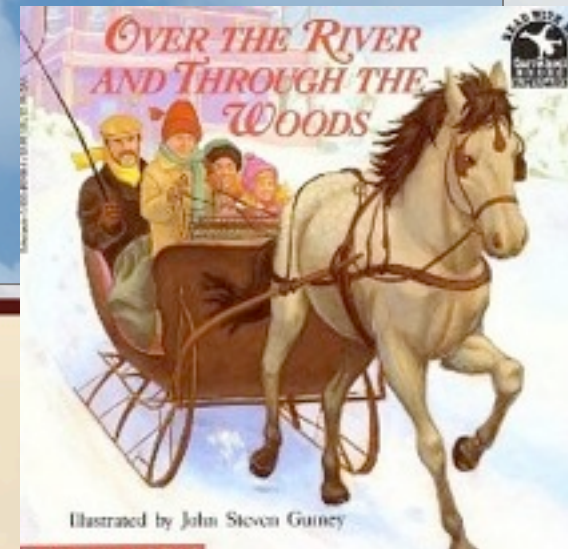
Lesson 23



2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we fight with
are not the weapons of the world.
On the contrary they have divine power
to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:4





Wednesday, April 3, 13

Paul was changed on the road to Damascus.

Paul's circumstances were always changing, sometimes by his choice (travel), other times not (trials).



Paul “boasts” about his...

Heritage

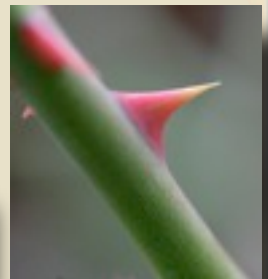


Revelation



Suffering

Thorn





“(Some) play down the rougher side of the Christian life as to give the impression that normal Christian living is a perfect bed of roses.”

Knowing God, J.I. Packer



2 Cor 11:23-27

Some 22 trials listed, including...

I have been in danger from everyone, everywhere.

Three times I was shipwrecked.



Paul's response: (*Acts 27:23-25*)

He listens to God, and he believes what he hears.

He perseveres. (*Phil 3:13-14*)



“For it is God who works in you...”
Phil 2:13

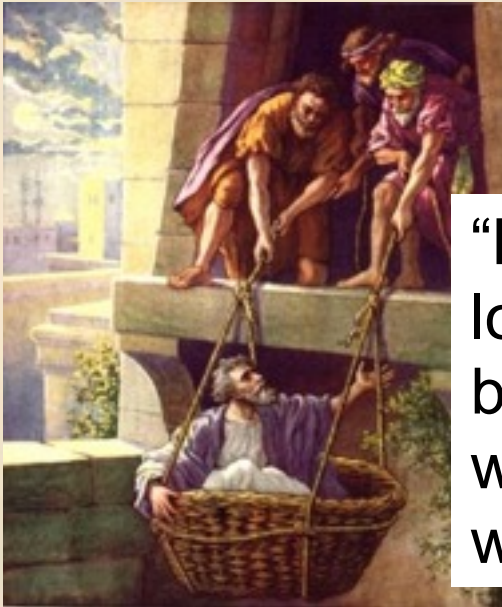
Our part

**God's
part**

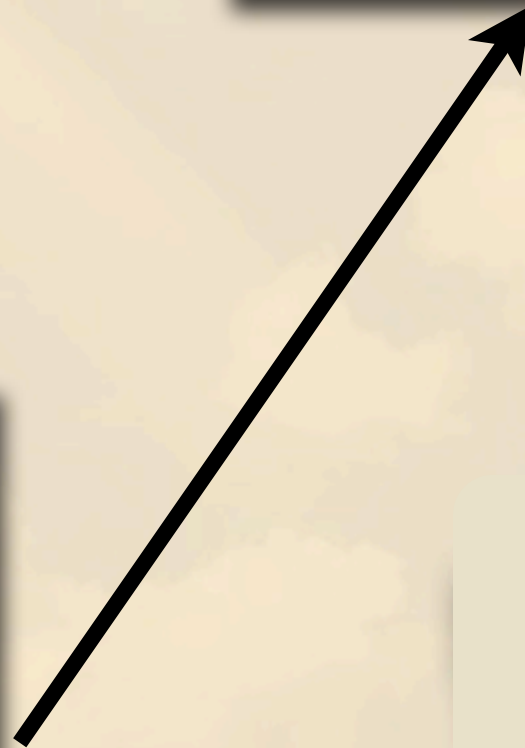


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“(I was) caught
up to the third
heaven.” (vs 12:2)



“But I was
lowered in a
basket from a
window in the
wall” (vs 11:33)



“There was a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven.” *2 Cor 12:2*

Spiritual Experiences

Sometimes private

May alienate some

Considered “boasting”

Paul’s response:

He is obedient. (2 Cor 12:4)





Paul “boasts” about his...

Heritage

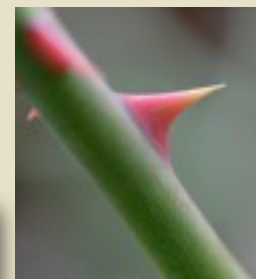


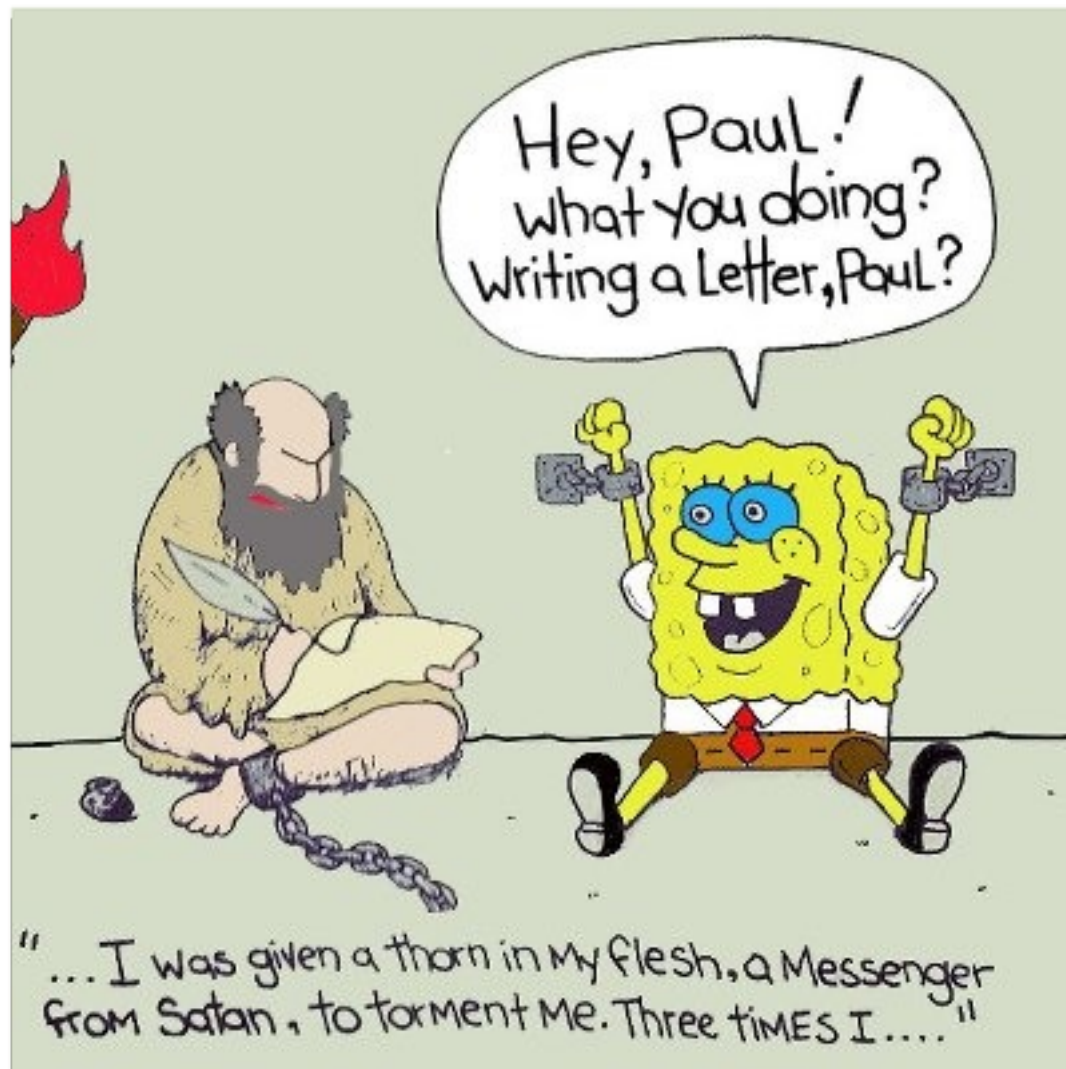
Revelation



Suffering

Thorn

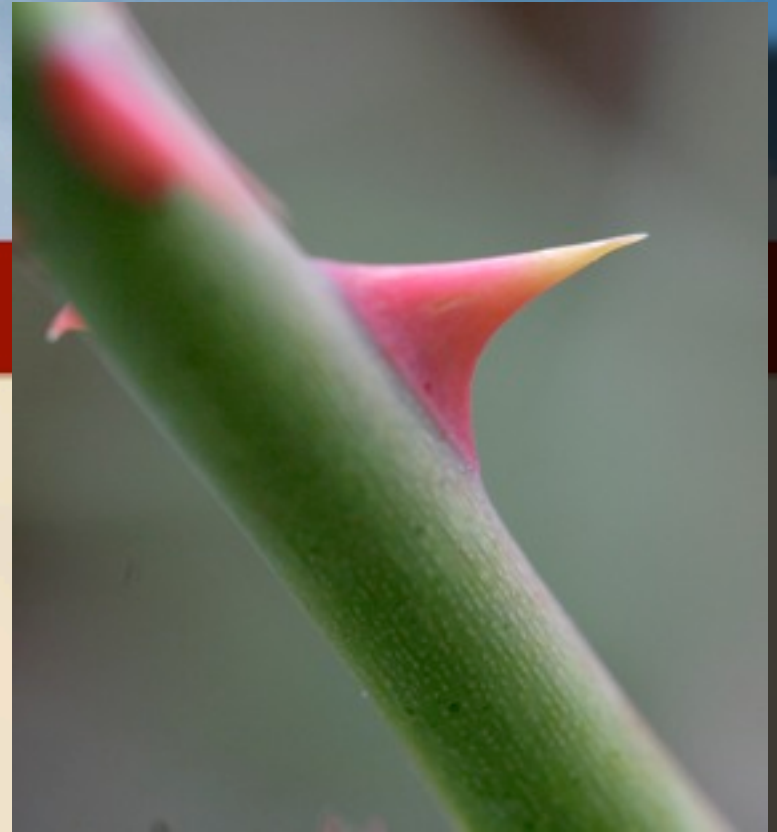




Paul's thorn

“thorn” Greek *skoloy* -- a pointed piece of wood, a sharp stake

“torment” Greek *kholaphizo*-- to strike with the fist, to treat with violence.



Paul's response:

He prays and hears an answer. (2 Cor 12:8-9)



“Change is inevitable...
except from a vending machine.”

Change will come.

Change is necessary.



Paul's Responses to change

He prays.

He listens.

He believes.

He perseveres.

He is obedient.





Latin word “surdus” (absurd) means “deaf”

Latin word “audire” (obedient) means “listening”

Applying the Lesson in Your Life

Are you facing a change?

Pray and Listen.

What do you hear?

