

## I'M GOING THROUGH

### SCRIPTURE READING:

- **“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matt 7:13-14).**
- **“And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest” (Luke 9:57).**

### INTRODUCTION:

A. The Christian hymn “I’m Going Through” by Herbert Emery Buffum is used for the writing of this Bible Study. He served as a pastor, evangelist, missionary, and hymn writer. He is credited with being the writer of over a thousand published gospel hymns. “I’m Going Through” is one of Buffum’s well known hymns:

- **I’m going through, I’m going through, I’ll pay the price, whatever others do;  
I’ll take the way with the Lord’s despised few; I’m going through, Jesus, I’m going through.**

B. Buffum wrote “I’m Going Through” after a painful experience within the church where he served as pastor. He resigned from the pastorship and Satan wanted him to see himself as a failure. Buffum found consolation when he thought about Job who continued to seek after God while experiencing many trials.

- **“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).**
- **“... the just shall come out of trouble” (Prov 12:13).**

**For the remainder of this study, we will examine the suffering of Paul and his reliance on the God of all comfort.**

### **I. The Suffering of Paul (2 Cor 11:23-28)**

Paul suffered – went through – much for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He believed what he said he believed. He was sincere about serving Christ wholeheartedly because Christ is the only hope for Salvation for a lost and dying world.

#### **A. He labored more abundantly (v. 23)**

Paul labored more abundantly than those who professed to be ministers of Christ. He worked longer hours. He traveled widely throughout the Mediterranean area to make Christ known (Four Missionary Journeys – Acts 13-14; 15:36–18:23; 18:24-21:14; 26:30-28:30).

- The purpose of Paul’s missionary journeys were to proclaim the Grace of God in forgiving sin through Jesus Christ.

**B. He suffered beatings and hazards above measure (v. 23-25)**

Paul suffered beatings and hazards above measure at the hands of the enemies of Christ, both heathen and Jewish.

○ **Above Measure** – means a countless number of times.

1. Five times he received thirty-nine lashes from the Jews (v. 24).
2. Three times he was beaten with rods (v. 25).
3. He was in prison more frequently (v. 23).
4. He faced death often (v. 23).
5. He was stoned one time (v. 25).
6. He “suffered shipwreck” three times (v. 25).
  - A night and a day he was in the deep sea.

**C. The dangers Paul suffered while in journeys was often (v. 26)**

1. The dangers of waters – swollen rivers and streams, flash floods (v. 26).
2. The dangers of robbers (v. 26) – many of the routes he traveled were infested with criminals.
3. The dangers of his own “countrymen” (Jews) and heathen (Gentiles) – (v. 26).
4. The dangers in the cities (v. 26):
  - Damascus (Acts 9:20, 23)
  - Antioch (Acts 16:16-40)
  - Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-8)
  - Berea (Acts 17:13)
  - Corinth (Acts 18:1, 6, 12-18)
  - Ephesus (Acts 19:1, 9, 23-41; 1 Cor 15:32)
5. The dangers in the wilderness (v. 26) – the exposure to the elements – cold, heat, rain lightening and thunderstorms.
6. The dangers in the sea (v. 26) – the potential danger of shipwreck.
7. The dangers among false brethren (v. 26) – false ministers, false doctrines, false believers.

**D. The dangers Paul suffered mentally and emotionally (vv. 27-28)**

1. “In weariness and painfulness” (v. 27) – He labored to the point of fatigue and exhaustion, to the point that his body ached and hurt.
2. “In watching’s often” (v. 27) – He worked through many sleepless nights.
3. “In hunger and thirst, in fasting often” (v. 27) – He went without food and water.
4. “In coldness and nakedness: (v. 27) – He was exposed to the elements of nature – giving his clothing to those in need – He suffered the cold winters so others would be comfortable.

5. “That which cometh upon me daily” – “the care of all the churches’ (v. 28).
  - He carried daily the concern of all the Christian churches on his heart. He established new churches and felt responsible for them because of false teachers attempting to persuade them to abandon the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1. Paul suffered and sacrificed much for the cause of Jesus Christ. Also, according to Christian tradition, he was beheaded to Rome.
2. After his conversion, Paul was committed wholeheartedly to the cause of Jesus Christ.
  - Lord, I have started to walk in the light, that shines on my pathway so clearly, so bright. I’ve bade the world and its follies adieu, And now with my Savior I mean to Go Through.
3. **“I’m Going Through”** requires total dedication in following Jesus even in the midst of troubles, dangers, calamities, disappointments, tragedies, and burdens (Luke 9:57-62).
4. **I’m Going Through”** requires supreme love, supreme sacrifice and bearing our Cross for Christ (Luke 14:25-35).
  - “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Matt 22:37-38).
  - “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matt 10:37-39).
5. Even after Paul established new churches and moved on, he prayed for them (1 Cor 1:4; Eph 1:15-16; Philippians 1:3-4; Col 1:3; 1 Thess 1:2-3; 2 Thess 1:3).
  - We are to pray for Christian churches and other Believers.

### **STUDY QUESTIONS:**

1. What difficult challenges and tribulations are you going through at this time?
2. How is God helping you through any challenges and tribulations that you are going through?
  - Remember, God is “The Father of Mercies, and the God of All comfort” (2 Cor 1:3).
    - a. God has promised to comfort “us in all our tribulation” (2 Cor 1:3).
    - b. God comforts us with His Word (Ps 119:50; Rom 15:4).
    - c. God comforts us in what He does for us. He demonstrates love for us by His actions. What He has done, What He is doing and What He will do (Rom 5:8; Ps 145:9; Jer 31:3).
    - d. God comforts us with His loving presence (Heb 13:5)

- Christ will never leave us. He will always be at our side.
  - “The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down” (Ps 145:14).
- e. God comforts us with the love and presence of other Believers.
3. How far are you willing to go for Christ’s sake? Can you look death in the face? Can you look danger in the face and say – “I’m Going Through, I’ll pay price, whatever others do.”  
 “Can you say, I started with Jesus and I’m Going Through.”

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. I’m going through, I’m going through, I’ll pay the price, whatever others do;  
 I’ll take the way with the Lord’s despised few, I’m going through, Jesus, I’m going through.**

**B. The ABC’s of Salvation**

- **A**dmit That You Are A Sinner. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23)
- **B**elieve On Christ. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”* (Acts 16:31).
- **C**onfess Your Faith. *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”* (Rom 10:9-10).

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”** (Eccl 12:13).

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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever”** (Isa 40:8).