

Acts 9:15-16

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.’”

II Corinthians 11:23-27

“Are they servants of Christ? – I speak as if insane – I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and day I have spent in the deep.”

II Corinthians 11:23-27

“I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.”

II Timothy 4:6-7

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

Two Gifts from a Gracious God

1) The Gift of Salvation

Acts 11:18

“When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, ‘Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.’”

Acts 13:48

“When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”

I Corinthians 1:30

“It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” (NIV)

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”

Two Gifts from a Gracious God

- 1) The Gift of Salvation
- 2) The Gift of Suffering

II Timothy 3:12

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us.”