

## **12-22-19p - All Men Suffer: When God Doesn't Remove the Thorn - 2 Cor. 12:6-10**

### **Introduction:**

#### **I. Paul's Problem**

1. The thorn
  - not well described
  - Jews?
  - eye ailment?
  - irksome
  - constant
  - painful
2. Not
  - something life threatening
  - kept from ministry
3. "Given"
  - God?
  - Satan?

#### **II. Paul's Prayer**

1. Three times
    - to endure (8)
    - to escape (8)
  2. The thorn is not removed
    - just lived with it
  3. I Assume
    - Paul is a good person
    - lived a pure life
    - was a good pray-er
  4. The fact remains, it was not removed
    - so, this says nothing about purity
    - says nothing about prayer life
- !!). Remember, Jesus prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane

#### **III. God's Purpose**

1. Purpose given - here it is
2. To defeat Paul's pride
  - God brings down the exalted to receive glory alone
  - think He just brings down the wicked...
  - even the good are tempted to take God's glory
3. God resists the proud - principle
4. God may have denied to keep you from pride
  - Satan cast down because of pride
5. To show His pleasure

#### **IV. The Principle**

1. !!). a reason given for the thorn

- but not less painful
- but not removed
- 2. God's purpose may be accomplished through suffering (9-10)
  - He gets glory not you
- 3. We learn to grow bigger than the problem
- 4. God's power may be experienced while suffering
  - God's will may be accomplished

The cross - exhibit A