

HANDOUT 10/16/2022

God's provision for self-exaltation

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NASB)

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

The great point is that you and I are united to that Man in heaven.

Now what is the consequence of this?

Question: How does Paul's sin nature (and ours) respond to God's revelations?

God's solution: To give Paul (and us) a "thorn in the flesh" – by His grace

8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

Paul's asking for relief is a request for mercy.

Does he get mercy or something else?

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

How does one receive God's grace in the time of need?

Is weakness in oneself a good thing?

Our greatest liability: self-confidence.

Our greatest asset: Christ-confidence.

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Question: What is your response to your "thorn in the flesh"?

Can our response be Paul's response? - Is it possible for you to say:

"... Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities (weaknesses), that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Purpose: "that the power of Christ may rest upon me"