

The Christian and Dying



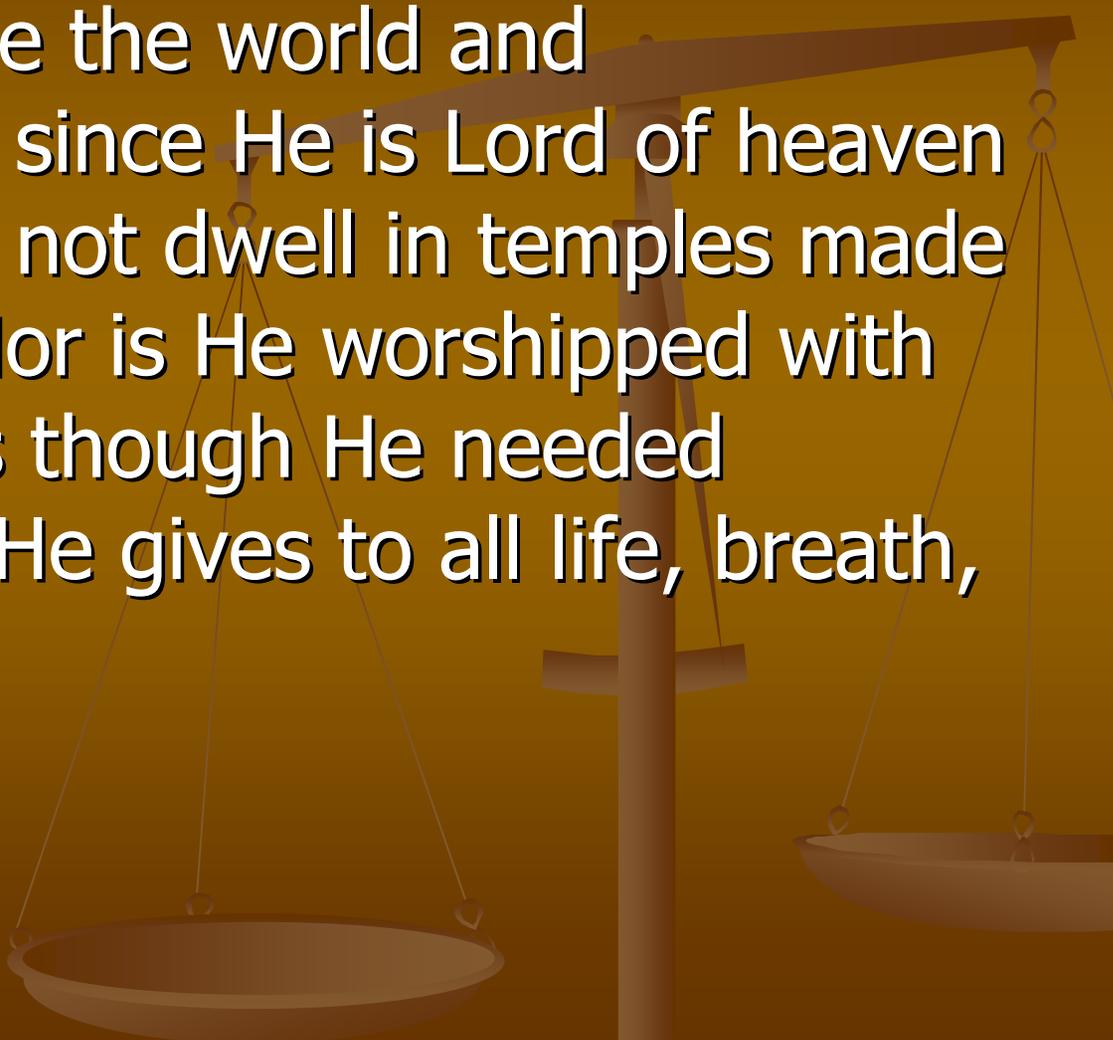
The Christian, Life, and Death

- All Life is a Gift from God (Acts 17:24-25)



Acts 17:24-25

24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."



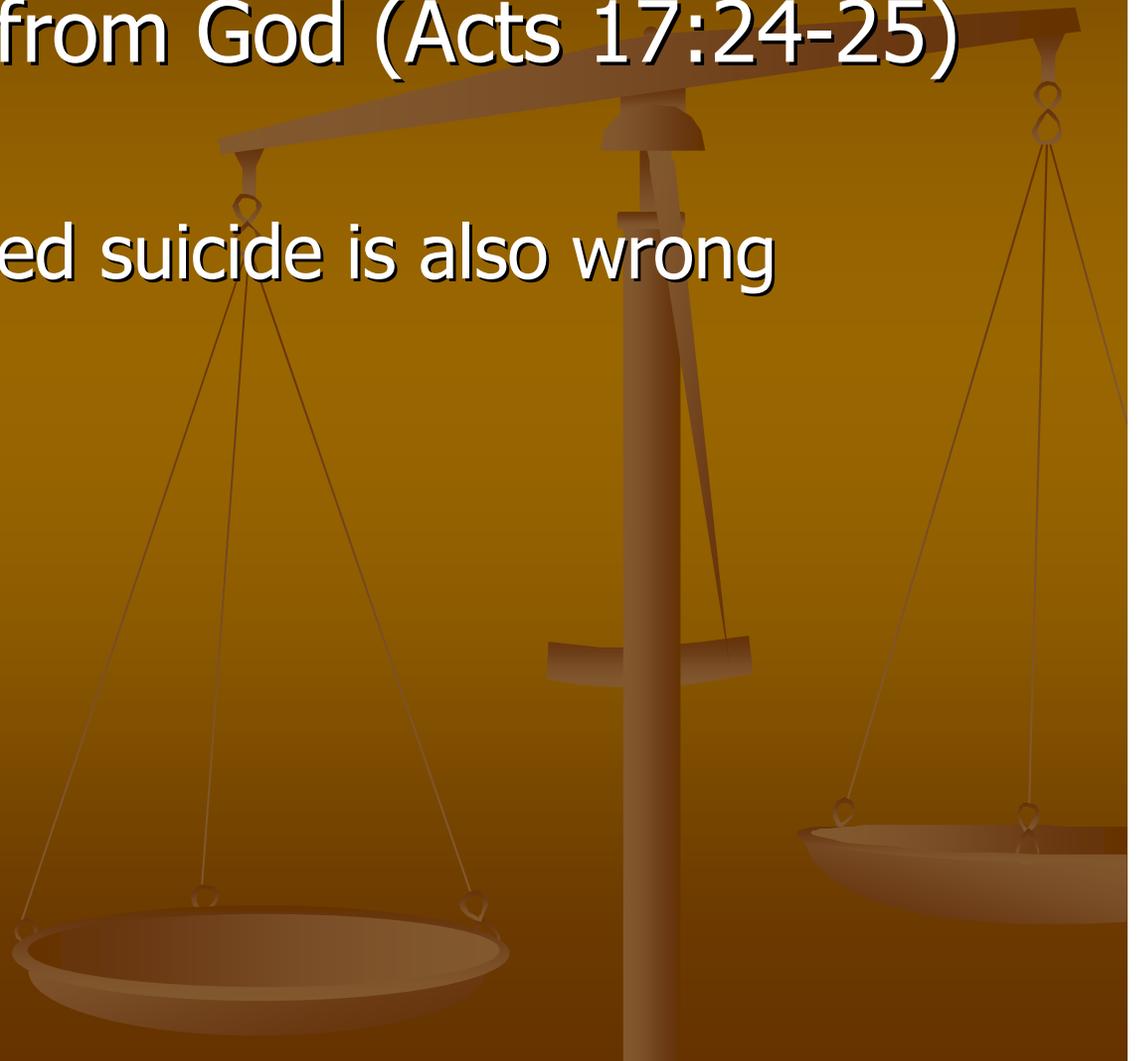
The Christian, Life, and Death

- All Life is a Gift from God (Acts 17:24-25)
 - Suicide is sinful



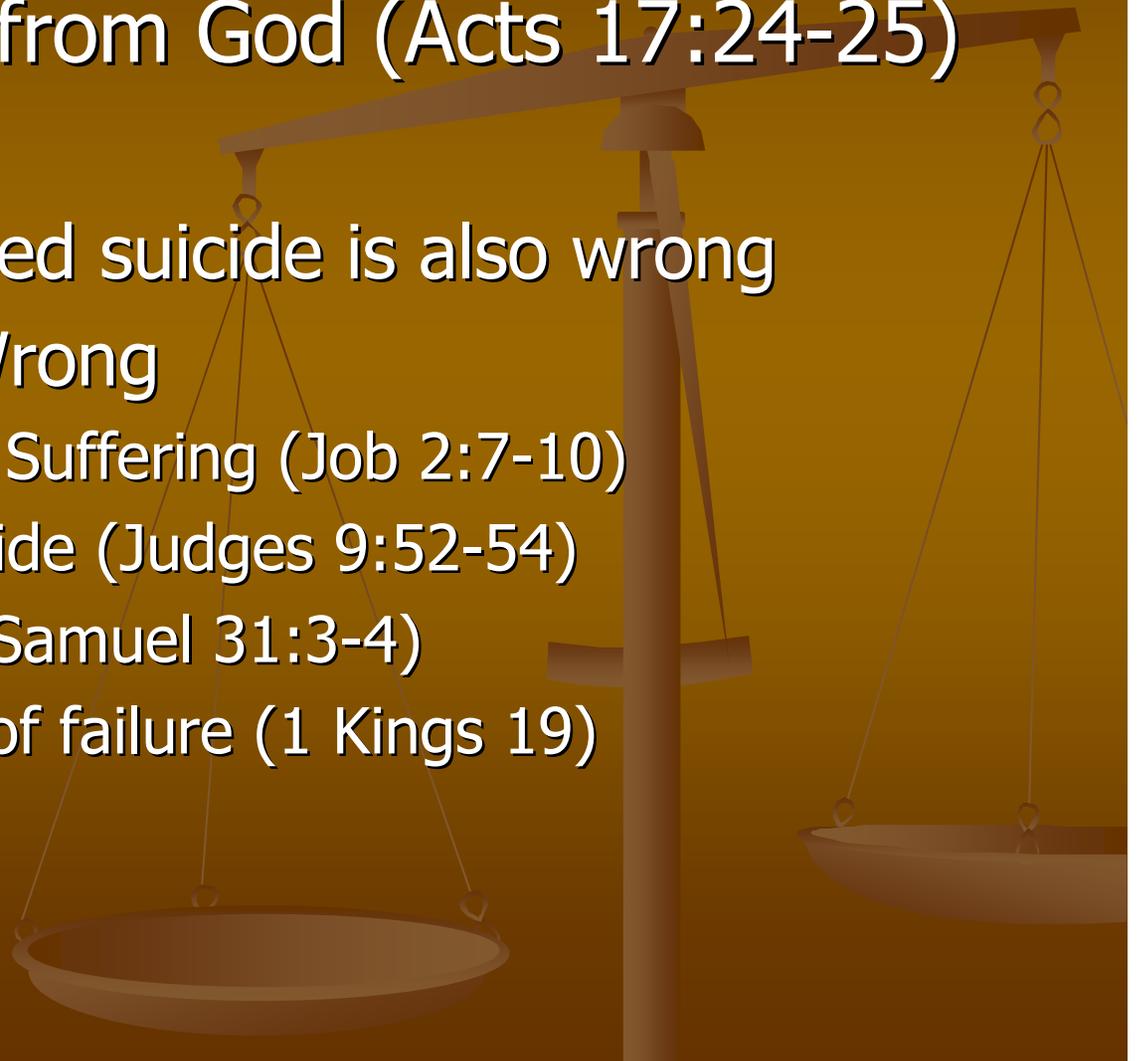
The Christian, Life, and Death

- All Life is a Gift from God (Acts 17:24-25)
 - Suicide is sinful
 - Physician-assisted suicide is also wrong



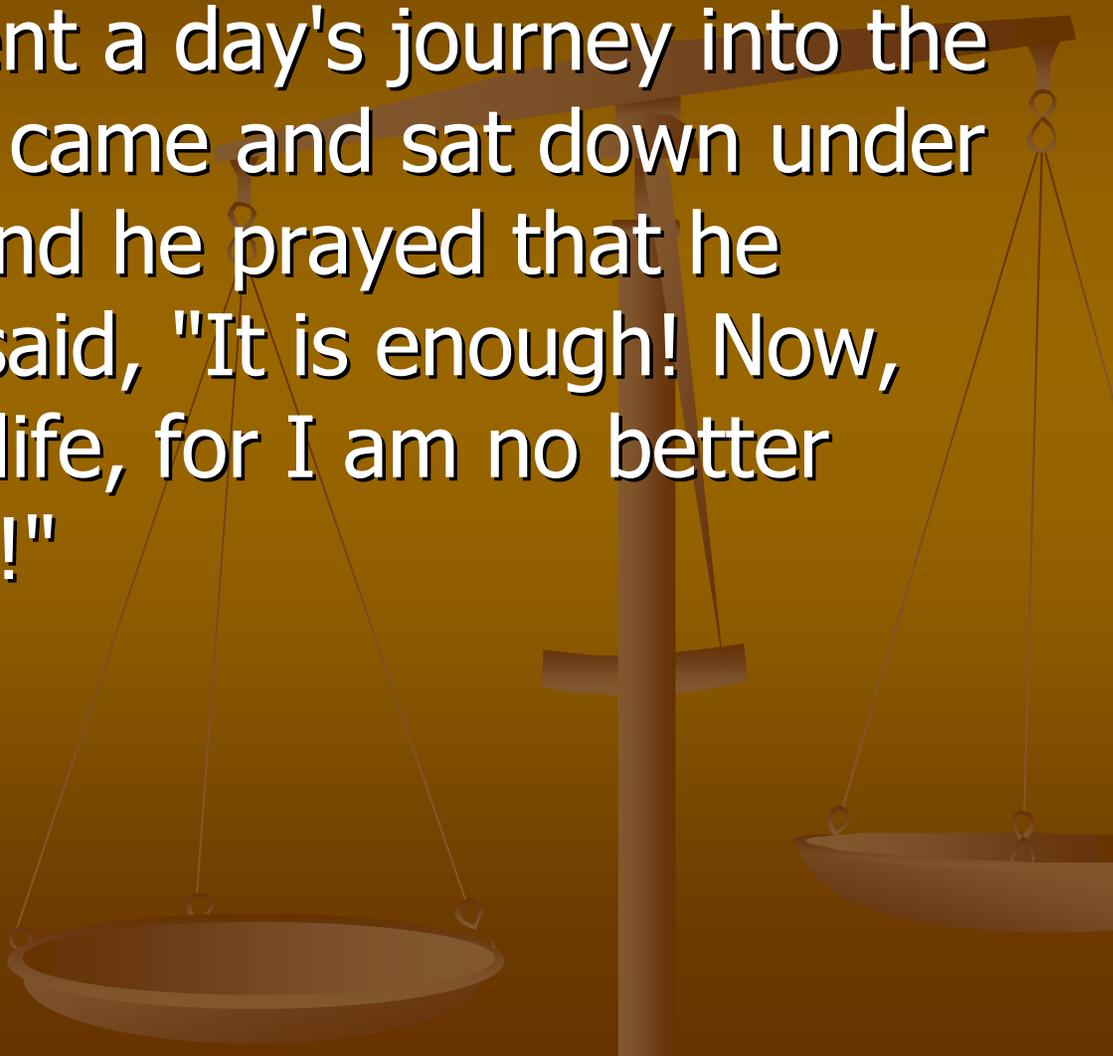
The Christian, Life, and Death

- All Life is a Gift from God (Acts 17:24-25)
 - Suicide is sinful
 - Physician-assisted suicide is also wrong
 - Euthanasia is Wrong
 - Job – Pain and Suffering (Job 2:7-10)
 - Abimelech – Pride (Judges 9:52-54)
 - Saul – Fear (1 Samuel 31:3-4)
 - Elijah – Sense of failure (1 Kings 19)



1 Kings 19:4 NKJV

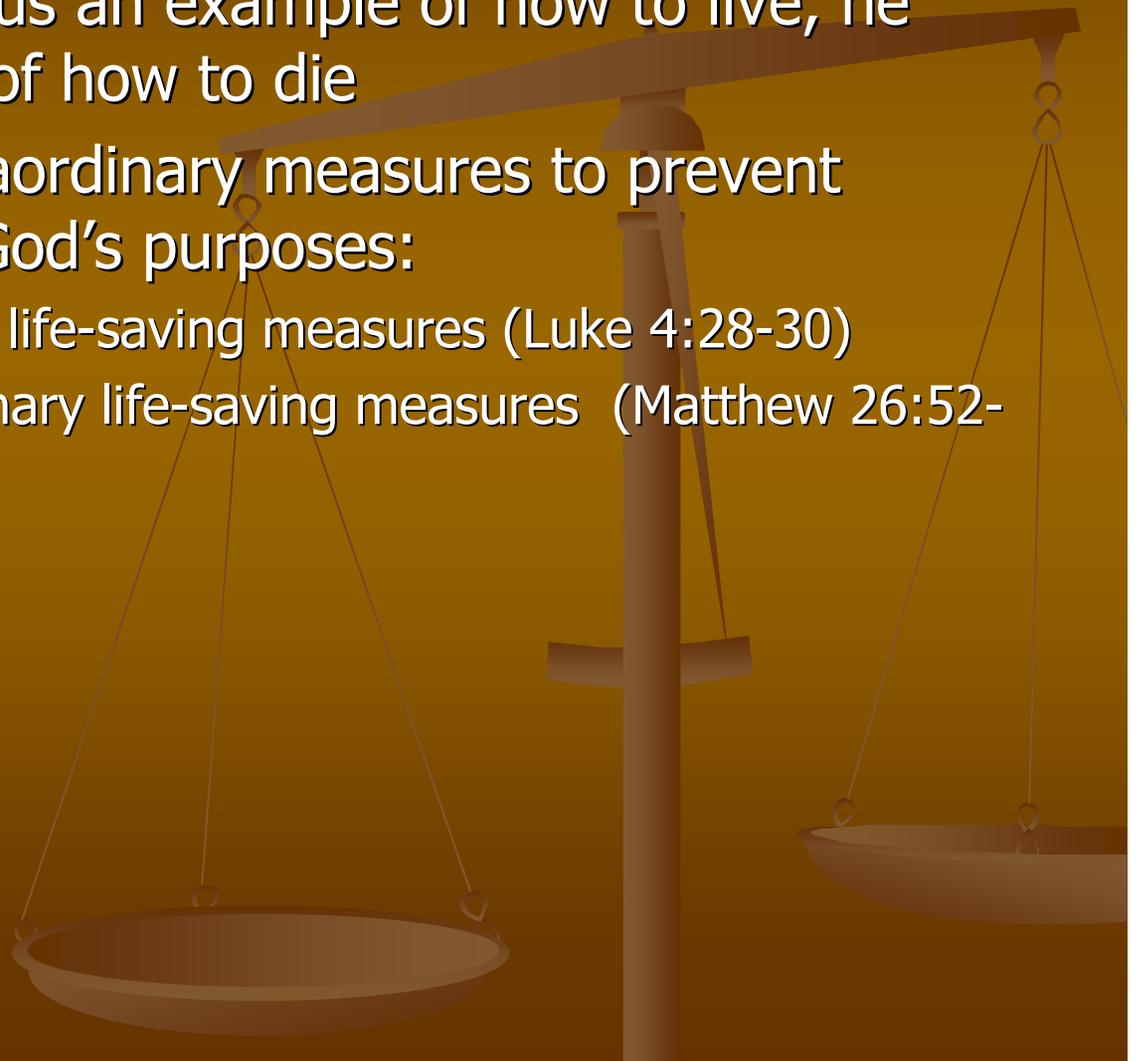
But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"



Jesus, Life, and Death

Jesus did not only give us an example of how to live, he gave us an example of how to die

- Used or refused extraordinary measures to prevent death, according to God's purposes:
 - Did use extraordinary life-saving measures (Luke 4:28-30)
 - Did not use extraordinary life-saving measures (Matthew 26:52-53)



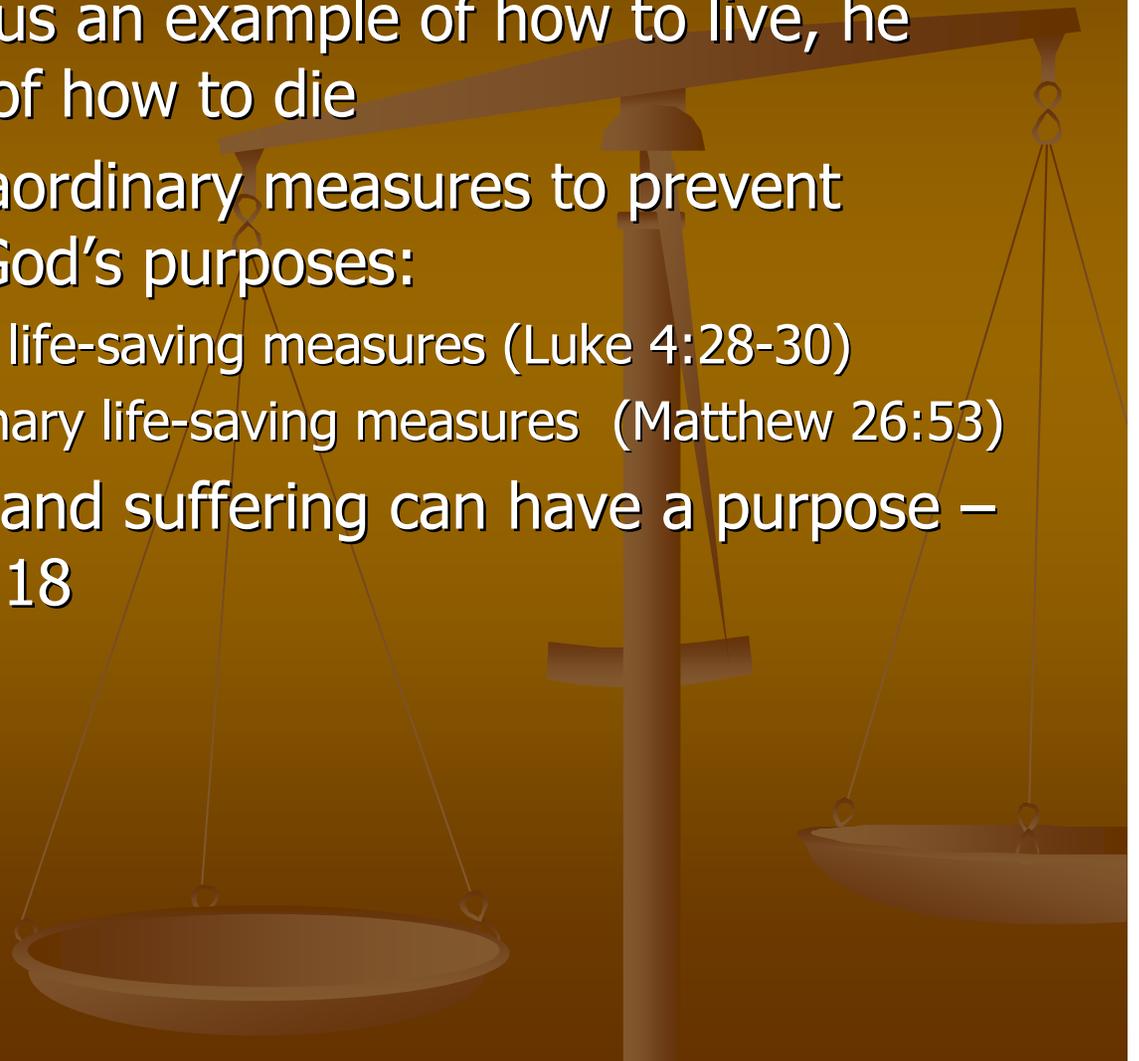
Extraordinary Measures: Used and Unused

- Luke 4:28-30 – ²⁸So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, ²⁹and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. ³⁰Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.
- Matthew 26:52-54 – ⁵²But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Or do you think that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He will provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴How then could the Scripture be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

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 - Did not use extraordinary life-saving measures (Matthew 26:53)
- Showed us that pain and suffering can have a purpose – Heb. 12:2; 1 Peter 3:18



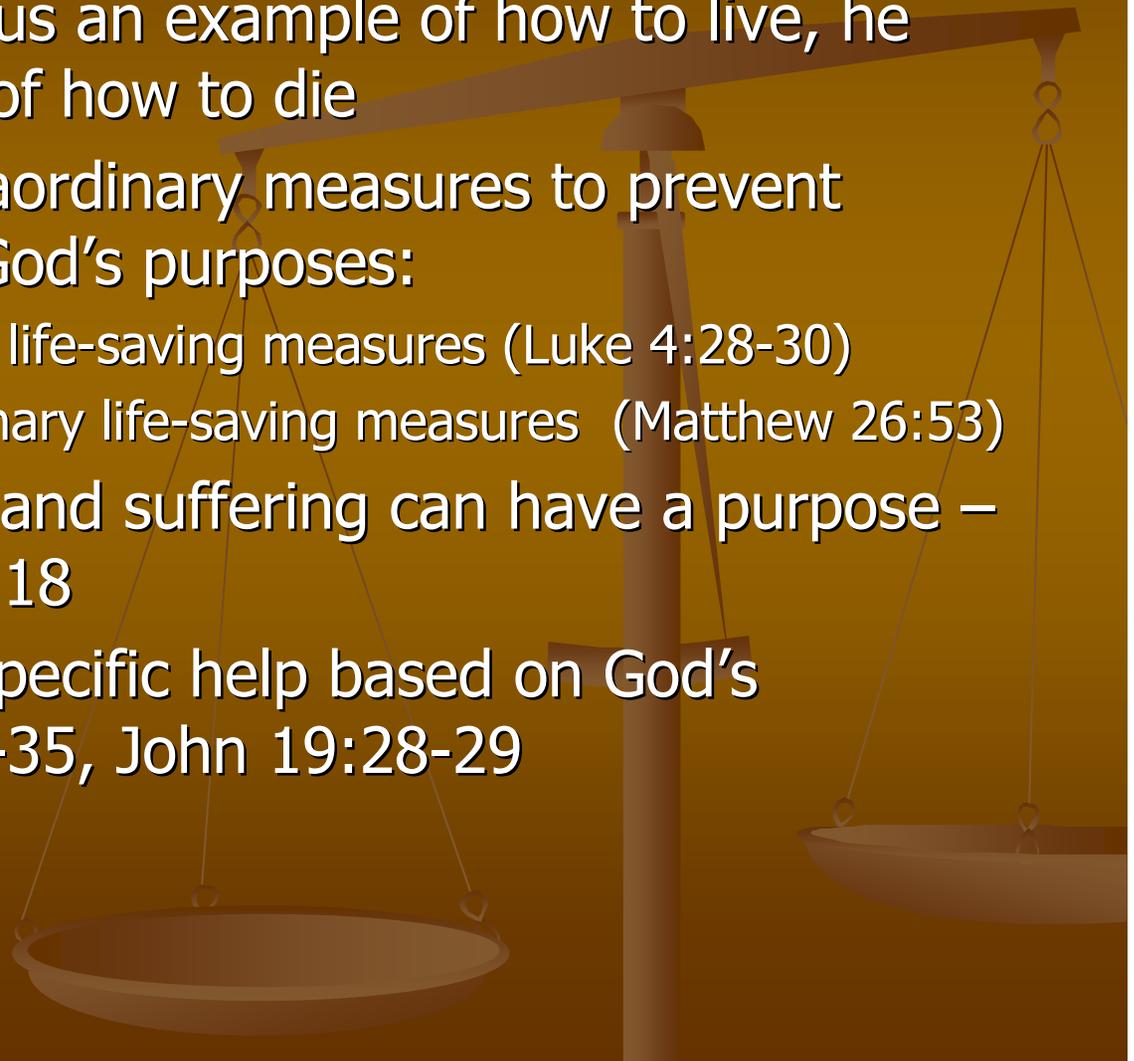
Pain and Suffering Has Purpose

- Heb. 12:2 - ²Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 1 Peter 3:18 - ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit

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- Accepted or denied specific help based on God's purposes – Mt. 27:33-35, John 19:28-29



Jesus at the Cross

- Mt. 27:33-35 – ³³And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, ³⁴they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. ³⁵Then they crucified Him...
- John 19:28-30 – ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to his mouth. ³⁰So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

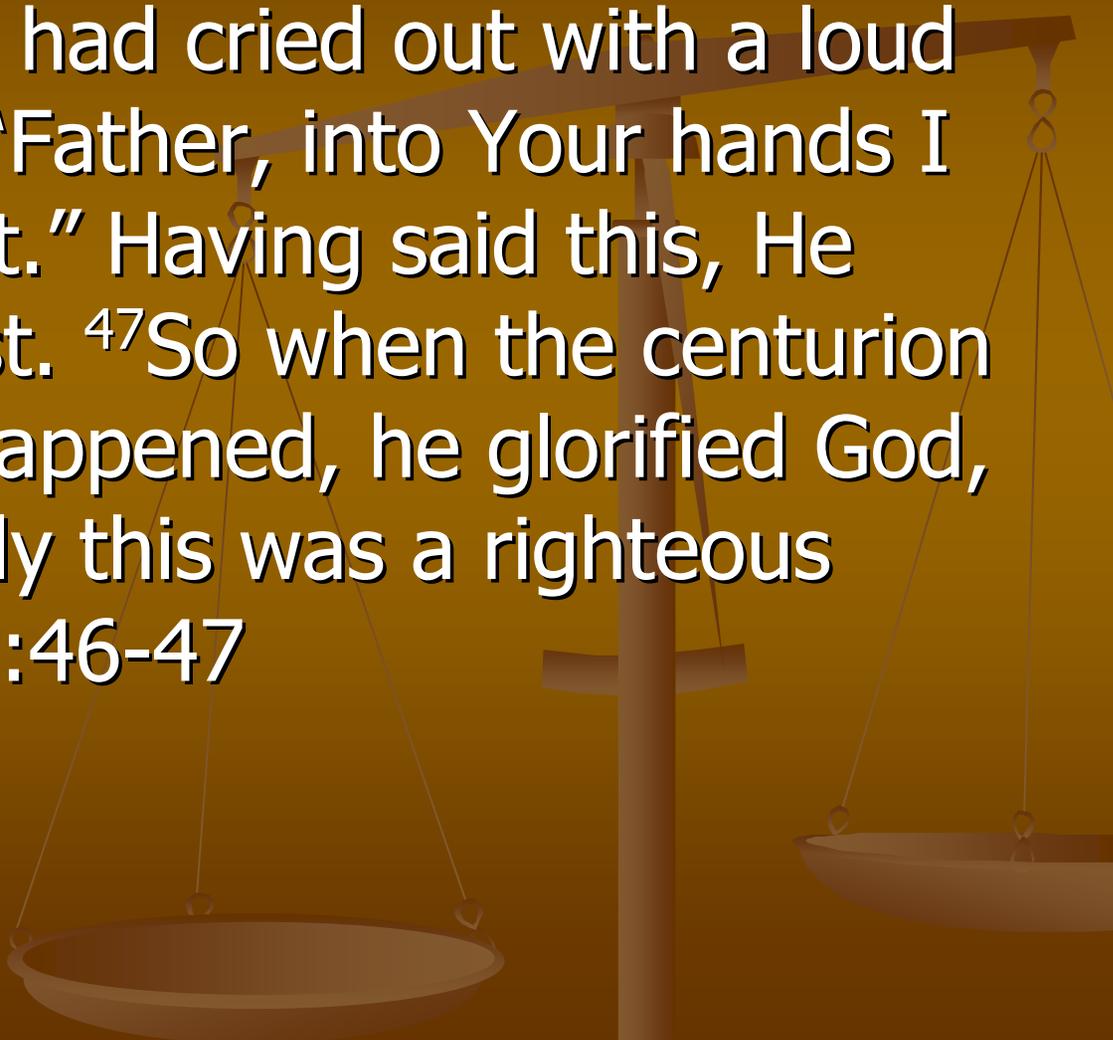
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- Demonstrated that dying with dignity does not depend on favorable external circumstances - Luke 23:46-47

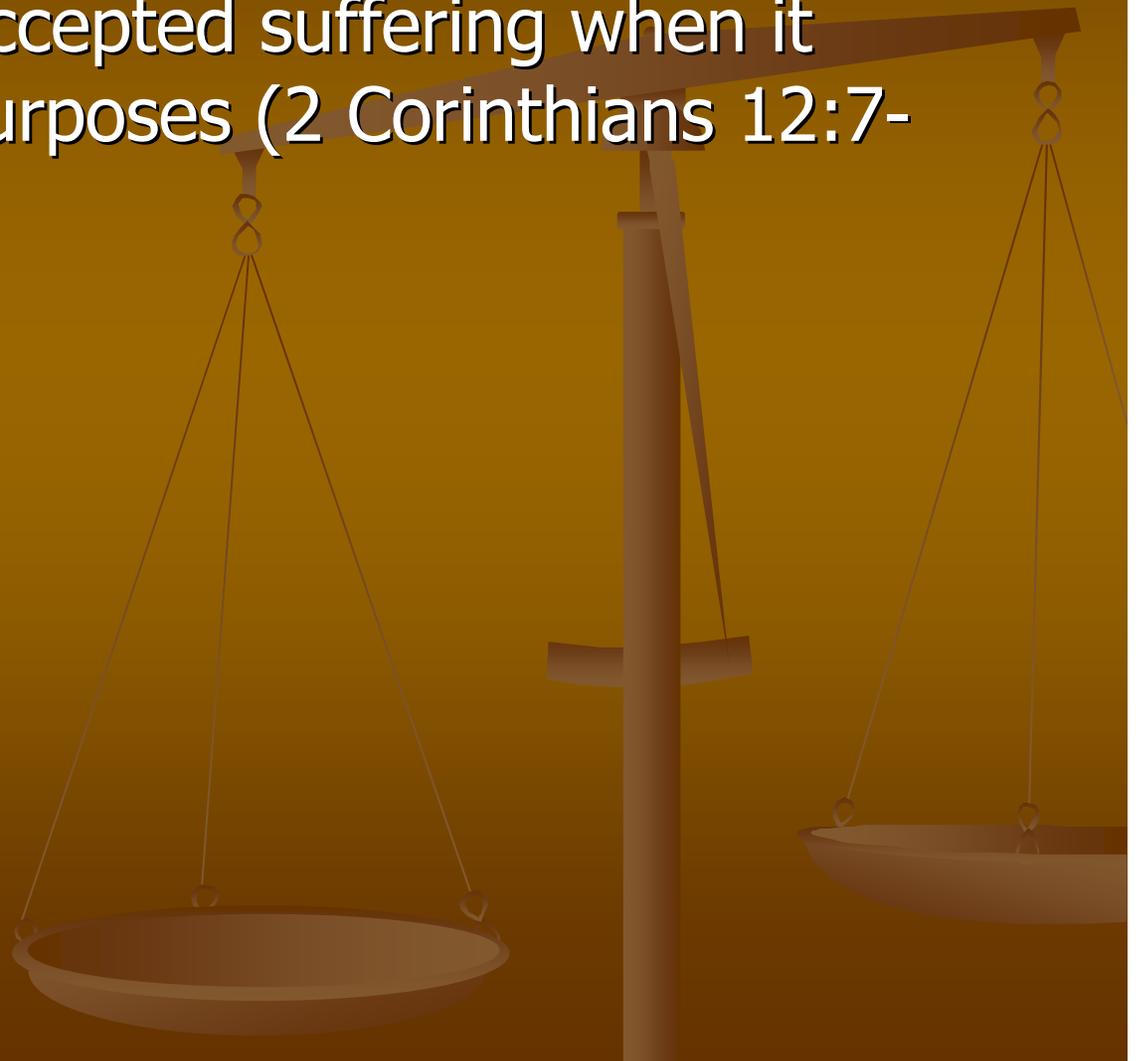
Dignity does not Depend on External Circumstances

⁴⁶And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. ⁴⁷So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" - Luke 23:46-47



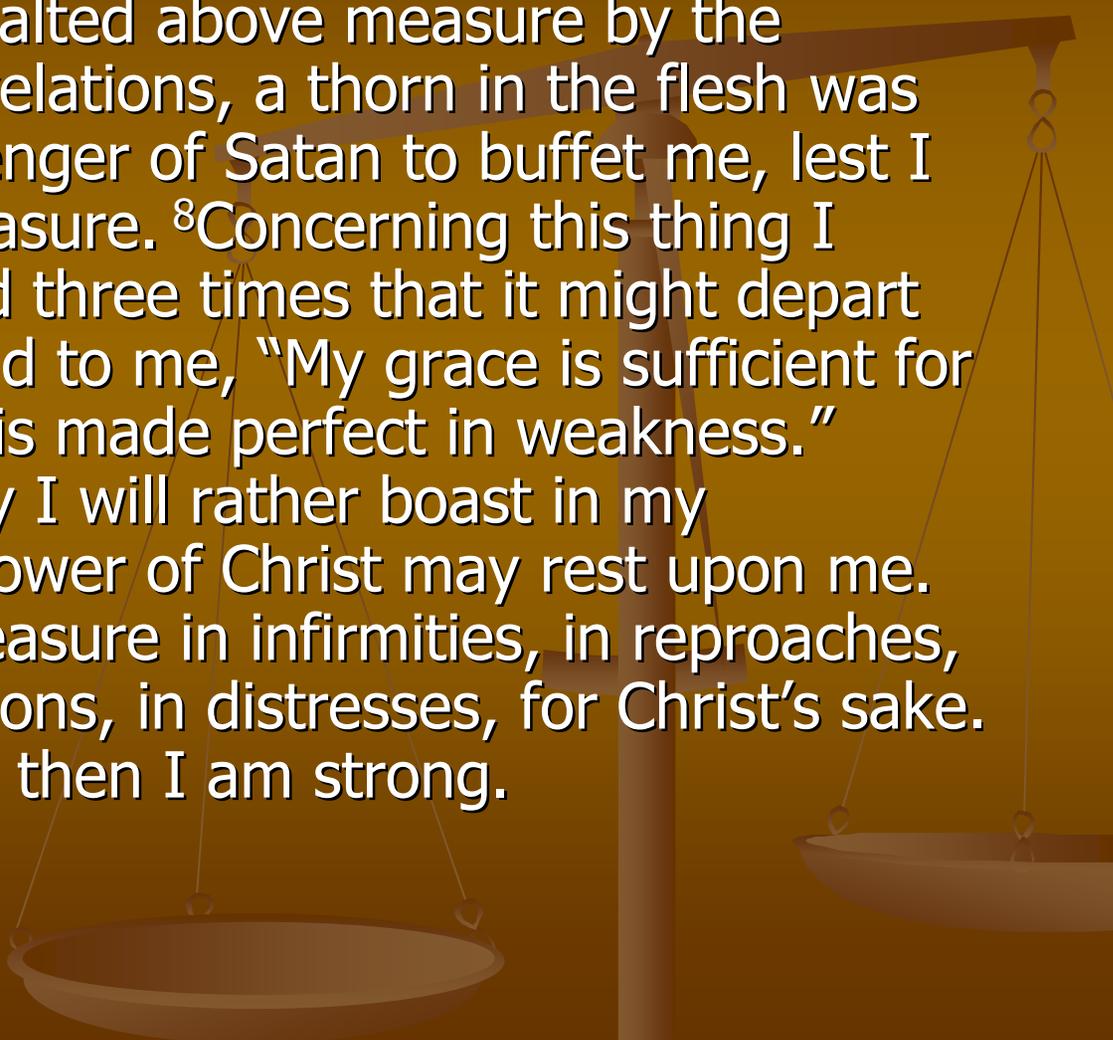
Paul, Life, and Death

- Thorn in flesh – accepted suffering when it furthered God's purposes (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)



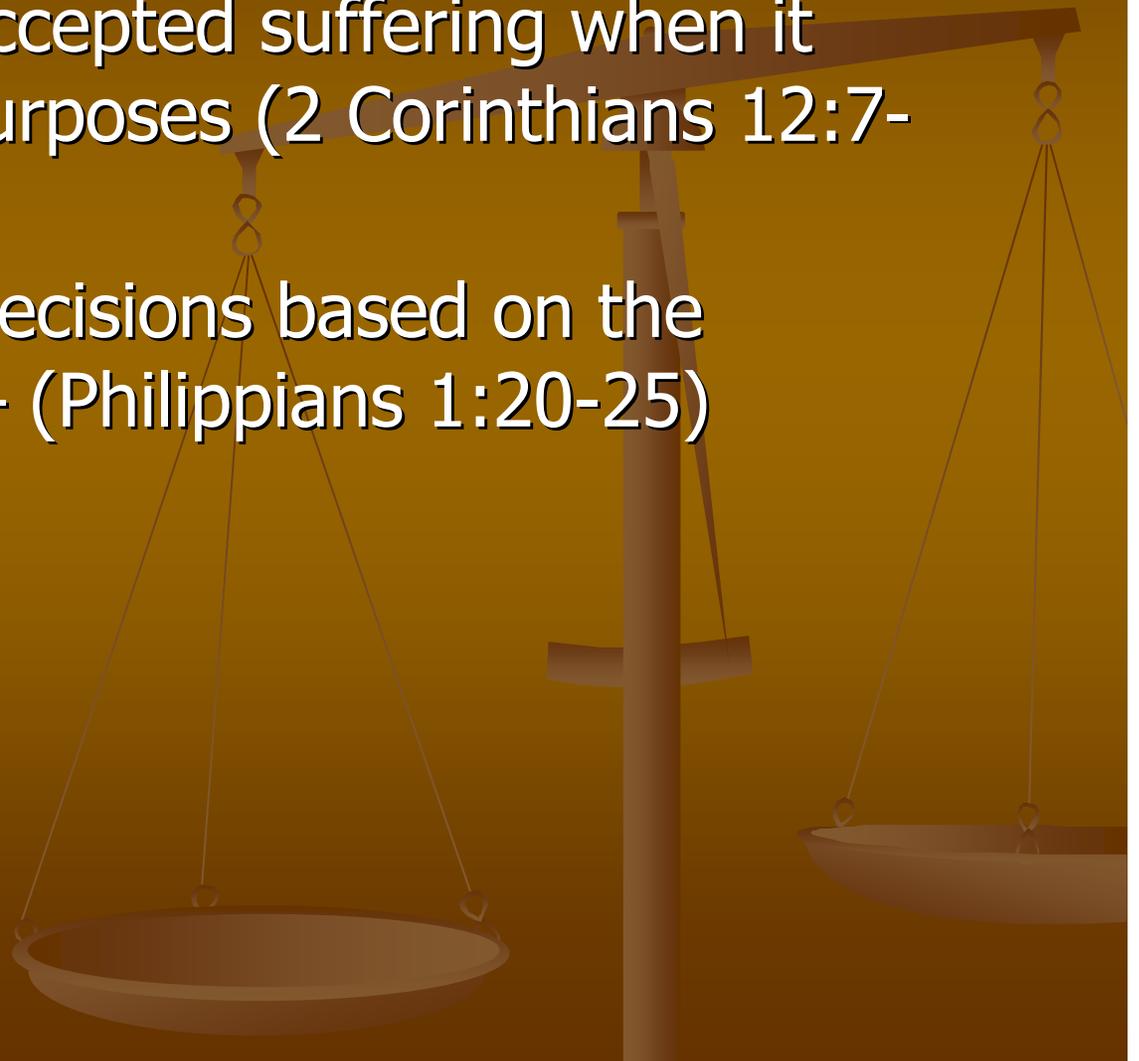
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



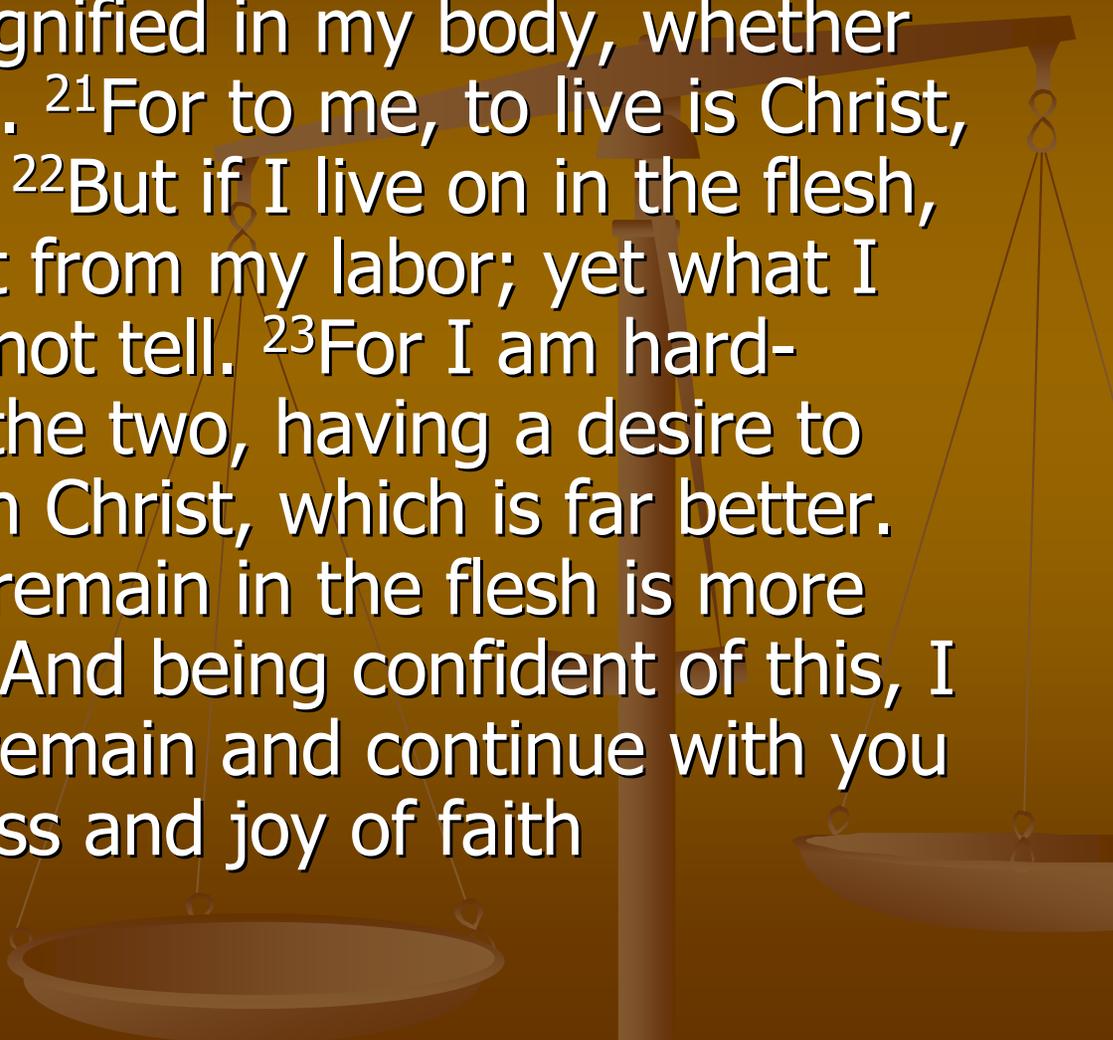
Paul, Life, and Death

- Thorn in flesh – accepted suffering when it furthered God’s purposes (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- Made end of life decisions based on the purposes of God – (Philippians 1:20-25)



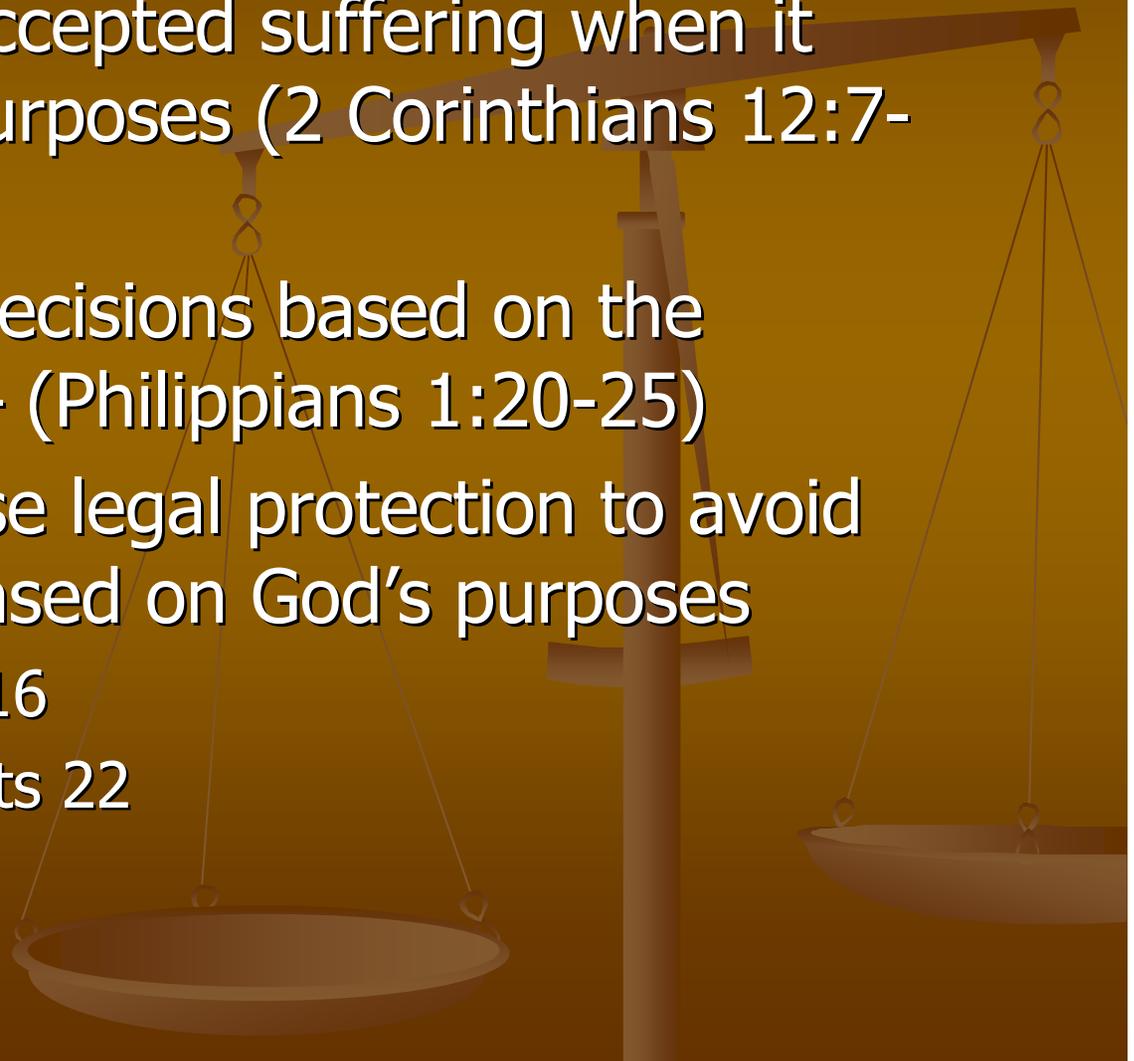
Philippians 1:20-25

²⁰...Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith



Paul, Life, and Death

- Thorn in flesh – accepted suffering when it furthered God’s purposes (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- Made end of life decisions based on the purposes of God – (Philippians 1:20-25)
- Used or did not use legal protection to avoid suffering/death based on God’s purposes
 - In Philippi – Acts 16
 - In Jerusalem – Acts 22



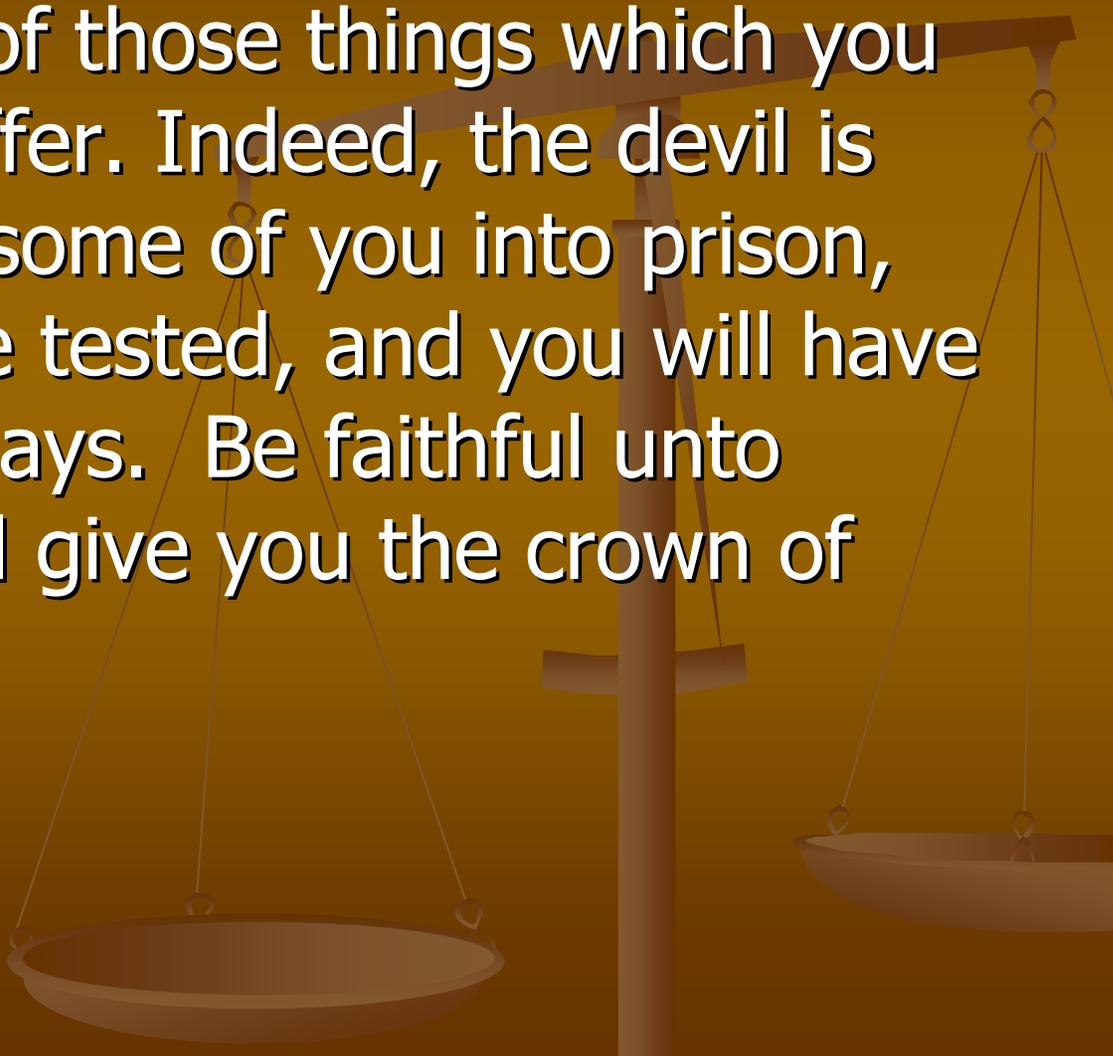
“Be Faithful Unto Death”

- Do not deny the faith - Revelation 2:10;
Hebrews 11:35-38



Revelation 2:10

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”



Hebrews 11:35

³⁵Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

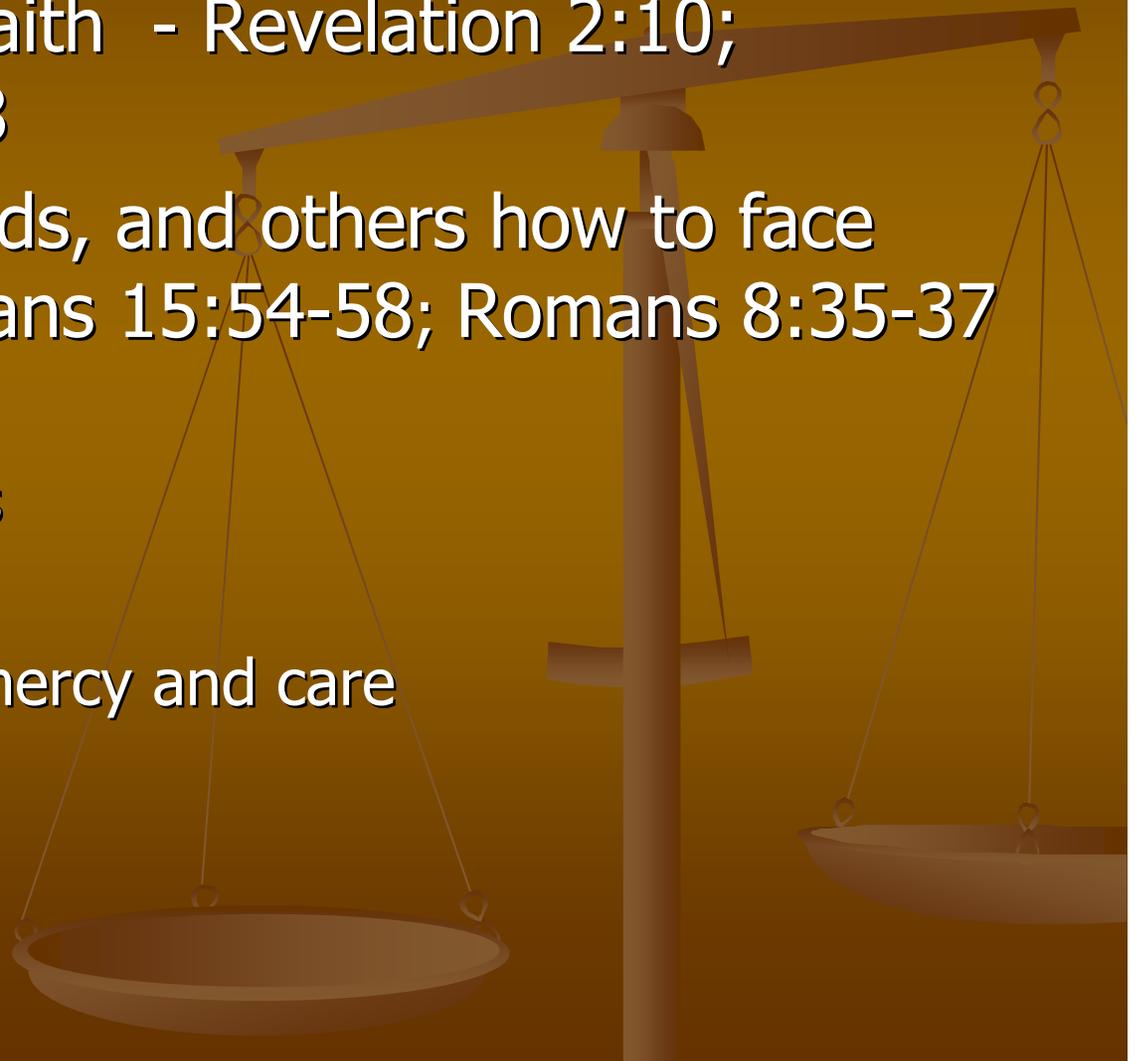
³⁶Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

³⁸of whom the world was not worthy...

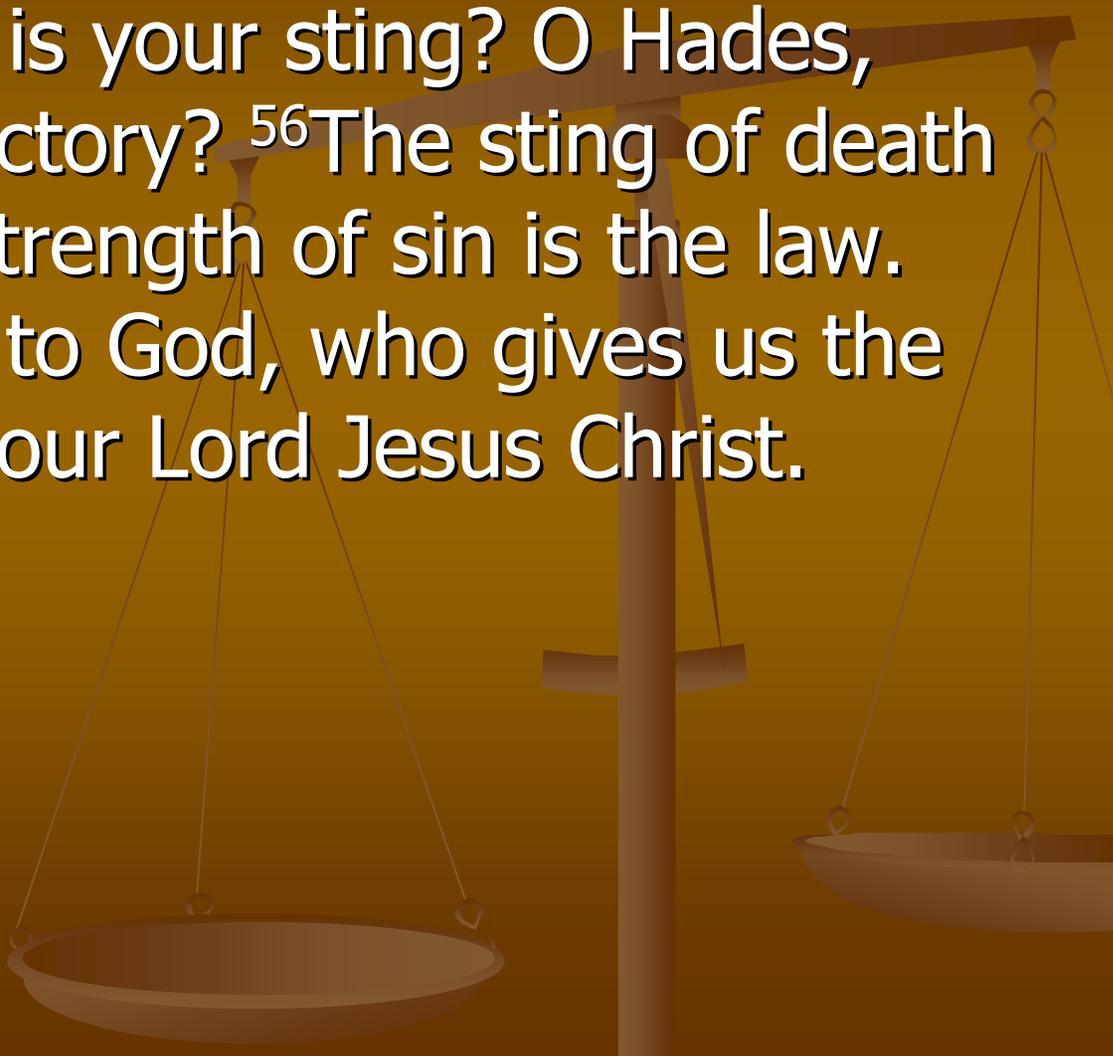
“Be Faithful Unto Death”

- Do not deny the faith - Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 11:35-38
- Show family, friends, and others how to face death - 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Romans 8:35-37
 - Without fear
 - Without bitterness
 - With faith in God
 - With trust in His mercy and care



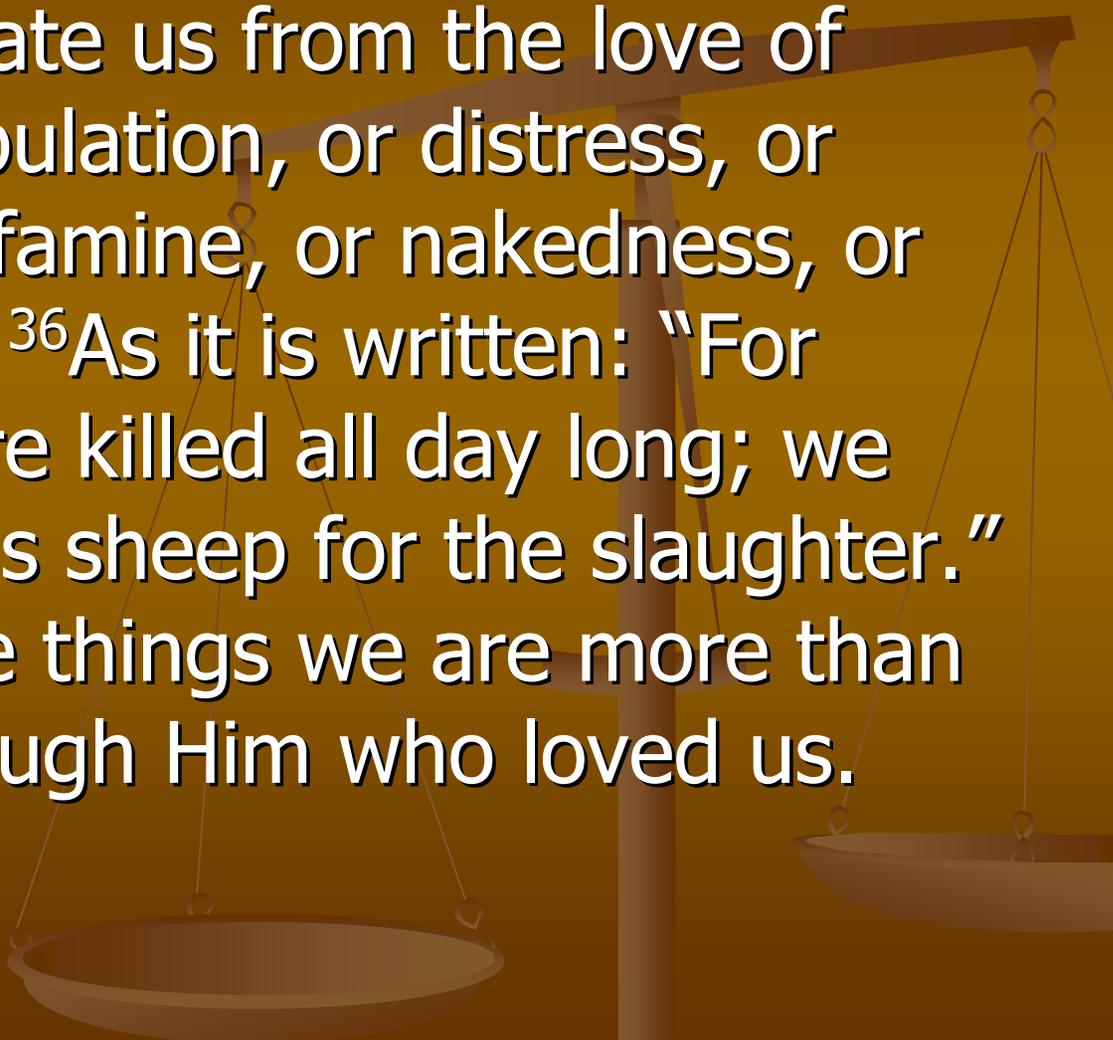
1 Corinthians 15:55-57

⁵⁵O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

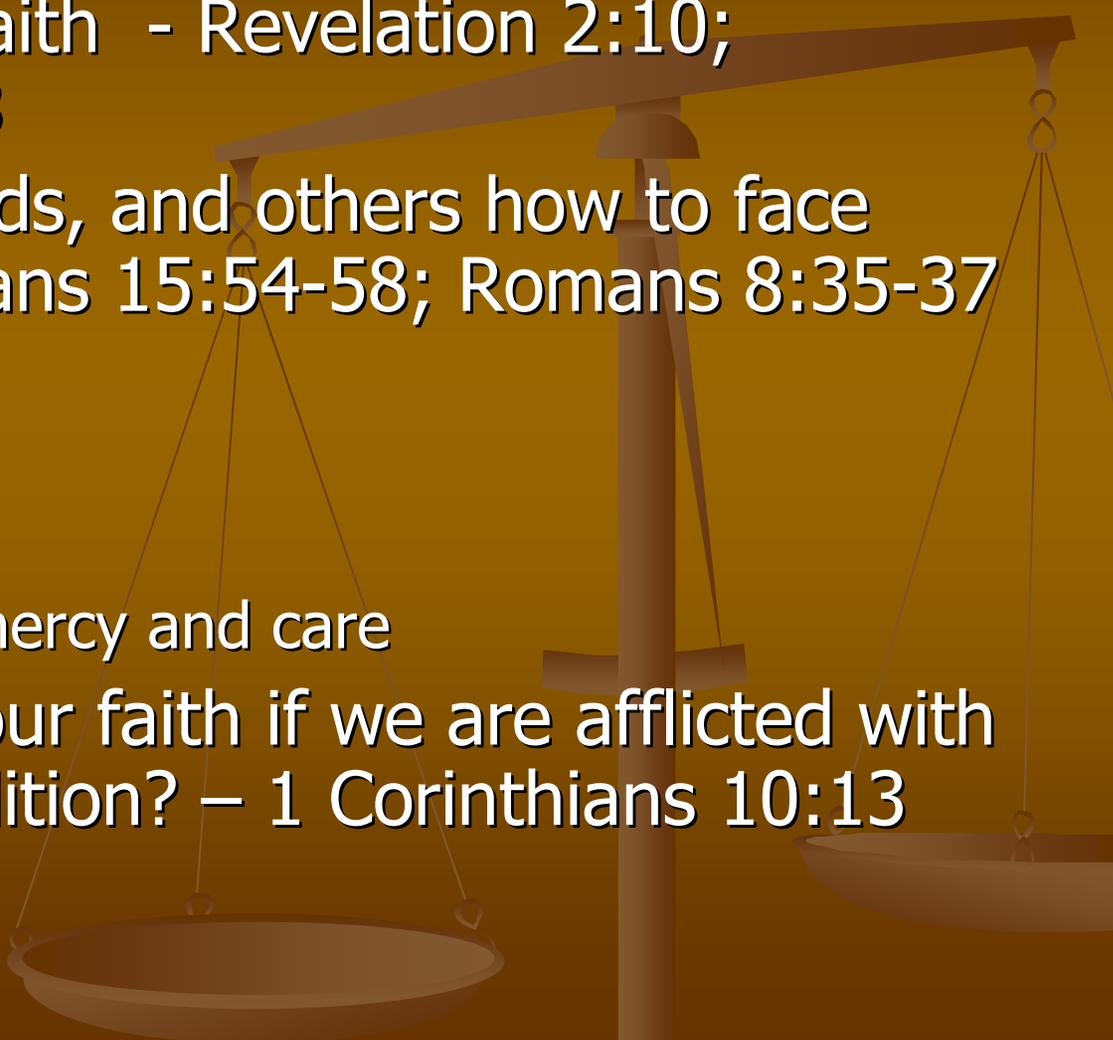


Romans 8:35-37

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

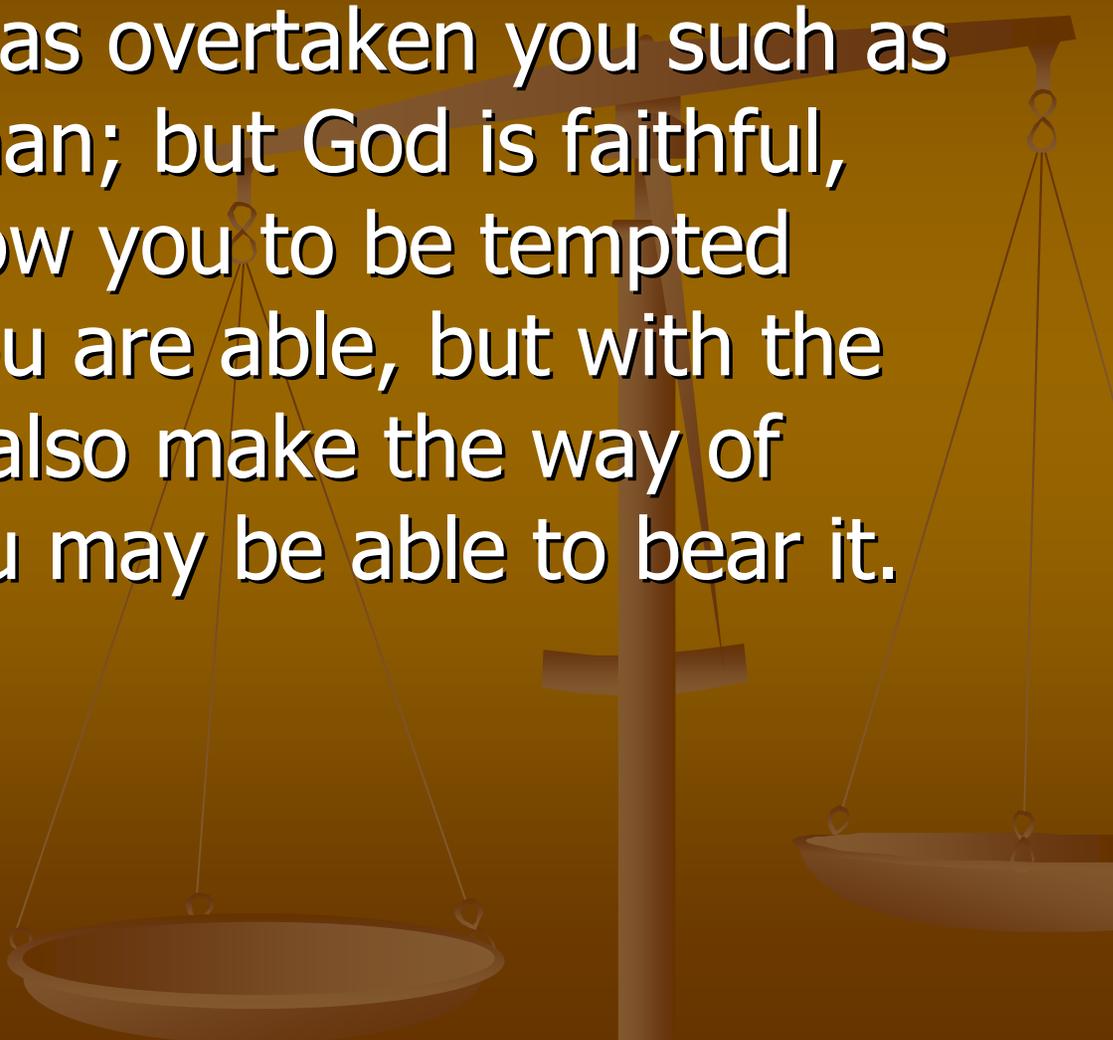


“Be Faithful Unto Death”

- Do not deny the faith - Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 11:35-38
 - Show family, friends, and others how to face death - 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Romans 8:35-37
 - Without fear
 - Without bitterness
 - With faith in God
 - With trust in His mercy and care
 - Will we abandon our faith if we are afflicted with a debilitating condition? – 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³No temptation has overtaken you such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.



“Bear One Another’s Burdens”

- Offer them comfort - Matthew 25:31-40



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- Offer them comfort - Matthew 25:31-40
- Sacrifice for them – Luke 10:30-37



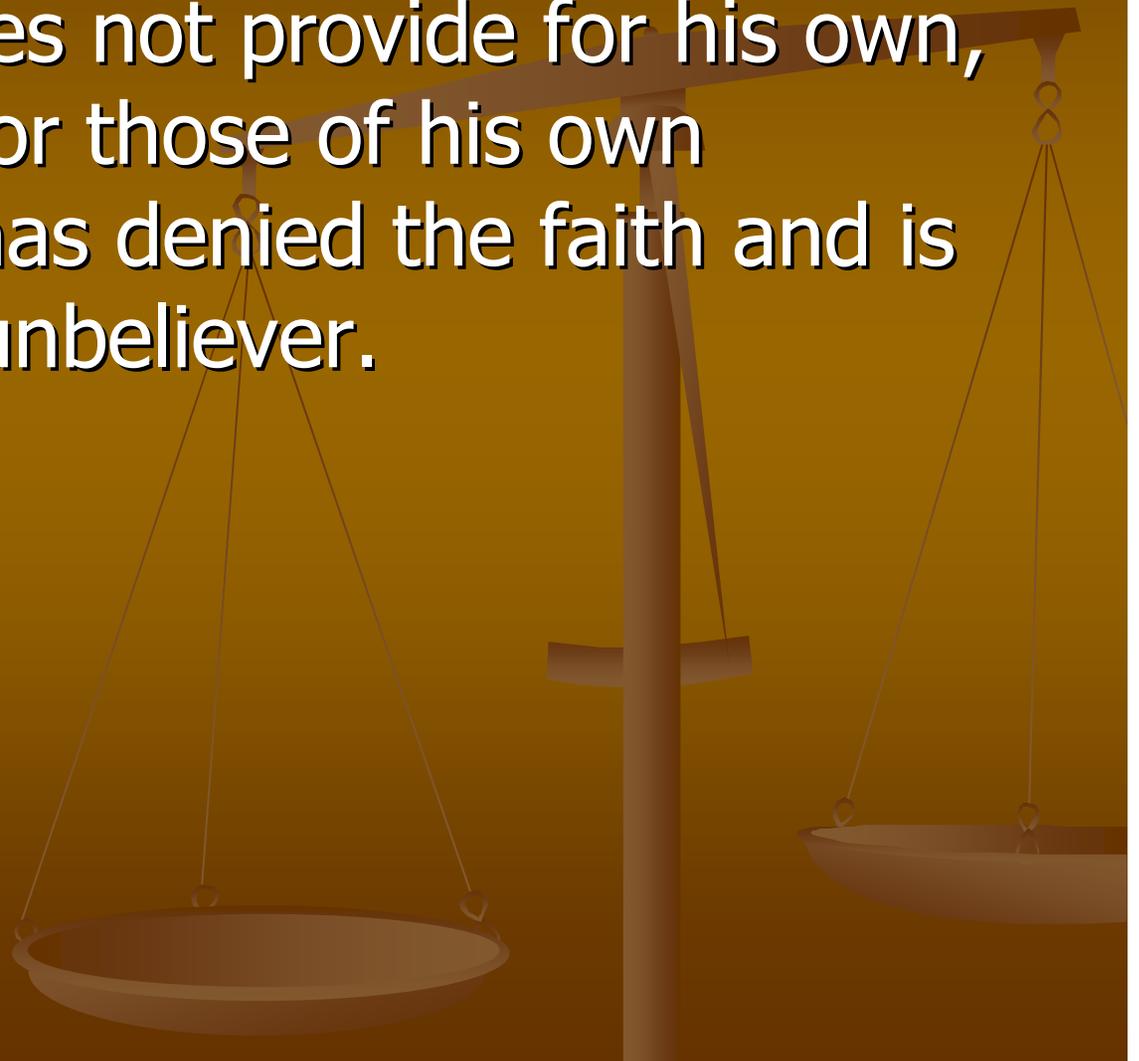
“Bear One Another’s Burdens”

- Offer them comfort - Matthew 25:31-40
- Sacrifice for them – Luke 10:30-37
- Take care of our own – 1 Timothy 5:8



1 Timothy 5:8

⁸But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



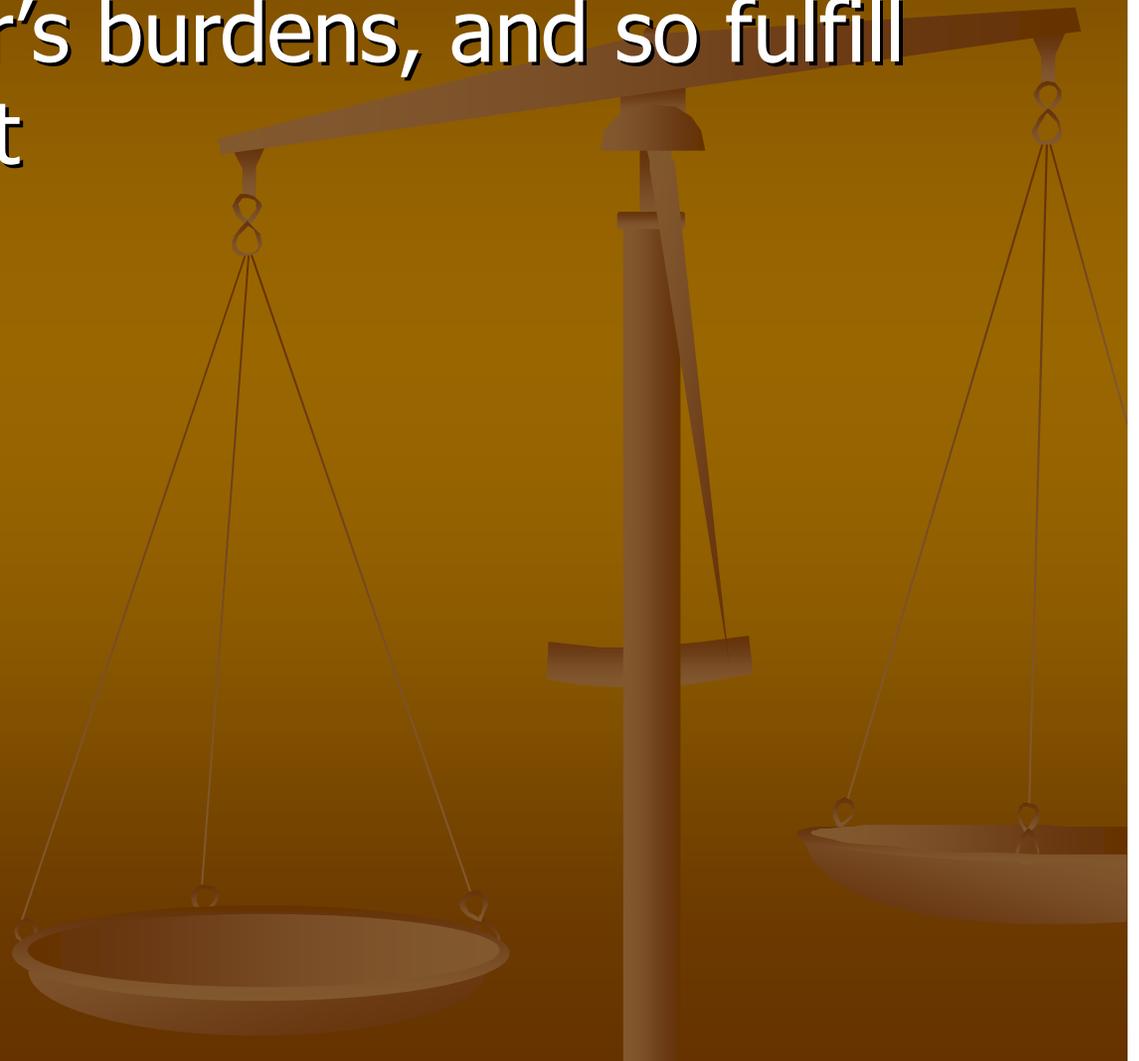
“Bear One Another’s Burdens”

- Offer them comfort - Matthew 25:31-40
- Sacrifice for them – Luke 10:30-37
- Take care of our own – 1 Timothy 5:8
- Support our brethren – Galatians 6:2



Galatians 6:2

²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ



“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” – Psalm 116:15

“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” – Romans 14:7-8

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” – Revelation 2:10

