

The Proper Way To Deal With Adversity

Paul had experienced suffering in the past; he was suffering now; and he knew others would suffer, too.

1:8; 1:12; 2:8-9;
3:10-12; 4:14-15;
2 Cor. 11:23-28.

So how did Paul deal with it?

- Gospel worthy of such suffering. 1:8–11.
- Saving souls more important than personal welfare. 2:8-10.
- Reward for endurance.
 1:12; 2:11-12; 4:16-18.

Paul had been forsaken by some of his own brethren.

1:15; 4:10, 16.

So how did Paul deal with it?

- He remembered other friends who were faithful.
 1:5; 1:16-18.
- He knew there was one Friend he could always count on—the Lord.
 4:16-18.

Paul had seen the effects of false teaching, and knew it would continue.

2:16-18; 3:13;4:3-4.

So how did Paul deal with it?

- Warned Timothy. 1:13;2:14-16; 3:13-17; 4:2-5.
- Encouraged development
 of more teachers. 2:1–2.
- Encouraged efforts to win back those who had gone astray. 2:24-26.

Paul knew he was near death.

· 4:6.

So how did he deal with it?

 He looked forward to receiving his crown. 4:7-8; 4:18.

Conclusion

"But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God... as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Cor. 6:4,10).