



Session 9:

What About Paul's Thorn in the Flesh?

- * Some who struggle with the thought that God wants us all to be well, use Paul's thorn in the flesh as their argument.
- * We are going to ask two basic questions to help us understand this passage.

1.) What was the thorn in Paul's flesh?

- * The passage clearly teaches us that the thorn in Paul's flesh was a "messenger of Satan".
- * There are other examples in the Bible where the term "thorn" is used to speak of people who were a pain to someone.

Numbers 33:55; Joshua 23:12-13; Ezekiel 28:24

- * So, this "thorn" was a direct attack from the Devil.

2.) What was the purpose of the attack?

- * The messenger of Satan's goal was to "torment" Paul. (vs. 7)
- * Paul's thorn was a demonic attack against him to try and stop him from ministering.

(I Cor. 16:9)

- The afflictions that Paul was experiencing was persecution from others.
- Paul was sharing divine revelations from God everywhere he travelled (vs. 7) and he was a threat to the Devil.
- Read the context of Paul's words and you will see clearly what the thorn in Paul's flesh was. (II Corinthians 11:23-27)
- * Instead of removing the satanic attacks from others, God showed Paul what the solution was (vs. 9).
- The grace of God (God's power) was more than enough to see Paul through these attacks.
- The term "weaknesses" mentioned twice in verse 9 don't refer to sickness but to human weakness. (Paul couldn't overcome the enemy's attacks in his own strength or ability.)