

II Corinthians 1:9-11 – “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.”

PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

Paul was in such danger of dying for preaching the gospel that he had pronounced the sentence of death upon himself. The only hope for Paul was God. He believed that trust in God’s power to raise the dead was his all he could look to. Paul thanked God for delivering him in the past, for continuing to deliver him, and for future deliverances. If a missionary has faith to enter the jaws of death to preach the gospel, people of God should exercise faith to pray for his deliverance. I have a missionary friend who has been shot at, and almost died from malaria three times. Every day foreign missionaries subject themselves to sicknesses, beatings, arrests, confiscation, imprisonment, and death. Those who have the sentence of death on themselves depend on our prayers. Paul considered prayers for his deliverance from death a “gift.” Missionaries go to the ends of the earth to preach the gospel with the hope of returning safely. Yet death is the risk they take, and unseen dangers lie ahead of them. When they see the dangers, they trust God to protect them. They also depend on us to pray them through the ordeal our Sovereign God has led them to. Don’t forget to pray for your missionaries. Pick at least one and pray for success and safety in preaching the gospel. This is a responsibility, but more than that it is a privilege. You may not know when the missionaries you pray for have the sentence of death on them. They need your prayers, and the Lord uses your prayers to accomplish His will through their sacrifice. Not only will the missionaries be rewarded, but you who pray for them will be rewarded. “He who receives a prophet...shall receive a prophet’s reward (Matthew 10:41). A gift of prayer to Christ’s servants is a gift to Christ (Matthew 10:40). No gift will go unrewarded.