

“Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” 2 Timothy 4:17 KJV



Notice the past tense of the Apostle's declaration. How often do we forget God's past deliverances in the turmoil of present troubles? Men are all too prone to ignore or forget history in present struggle and in so doing are destined to repeat it! The present generation knows little or nothing of the men whose very lives secured the freedoms they so quickly relinquish! The slaughter of innocents by past tyrants is not taught in favor of garnering "cultural tolerance" and "diversity." Satan is trying to reunite the world God divided at Babel! We used to celebrate freedom in America, but now we celebrate ethnicity. If their own culture was so great, why did people immigrate to the U.S.? The foundation of freedom is faith in Jesus Christ and the unalienable rights granted to each soul by its Creator! The only place there is liberty for mortal men is in the praise and presence of the invisible God! Only with the Spirit of God is there true Liberty! Jesus stated this about Himself from Isaiah's text, *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD...hath anointed me...to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."* Governments do not grant rights. The foundation of tyranny is men's desire to congregate in cities. God *"planted A GARDEN eastward in Eden."* The earth was the city! How difficult is it to control scattered population? Cities are perfect prisons for the masses for they promote wickedness! Lot was doing just fine until he *"pitched his tent towards Sodom."* We were created to desire companionship, but instead of filling that void with its Creator, we attempt to fill it with sinful pleasure. No one wants to be alone, but when you deny God, you are alone and left with putting square pegs in round holes! Nothing but God truly fills the lonely void we all have! If we pause to reflect on the deliverances of the past and see them as God's protection, we'd more bravely face the unknowns of future trials, confident in His love! *"Jesus Christ [IS] the same yesterday, to day, and forever!"* God reminds us, *"I am the LORD; I change not!"* It is man who vacillates between pleasure and protection; who forgets yesterday's Champion in the despairs of today's circumstance! God constantly caused the Israelites to build monuments in stone to mark times, places, and events. He ordained memorial Sabbaths to commemorate past deliverances. The Passover is one of the most well-known. It memorializes their great deliverance from Egyptian bondage and their passage through the Red Sea on dry ground. We should erect our own memorials and establish "Sabbaths" in which to remember God's interventions on our behalf! Do you remember God in your diary? On the walls of your house? In your daily conversation? Do you hesitate to speak publicly of your own salvation, because you fear men more than you love God? Or is a "Thank you Lord!" the best He can expect from you?

I was delivered from my sin,
I was given great peace within,
I shall, with Joy, declare God's Grace,
Until I see His blessed face! ~CGP

Have you been delivered and forgotten the tender mercies and loving Hand which lifted you out of the miry clay of sin and placed you upon His potter's wheel to fashion you in His own likeness? A verse from an old hymn says, "Here I'll raise my Ebenezer (Stone of help): Hither by Thy help I'm come: And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at Home." Have you raised any memorials to God's help, recently?

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Hebrews 2:1 KJV