ENDURANCE

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **11** Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. 2 Tim 3:10-11 (KJV)

This week I had some medical testing. I normally have great experiences. This time, some of the testing was good and some was not so good. Naturally, I will speak of that which was not. On my bone marrow test, the doctor doing the test tried to insert the needle in the wrong place the first time, which turned out to be very painful. The needle that is used is a large needle because they have to collect bone and marrow specimen in it. The second try he could not get the needle to penetrate the bone, so after trying for a while he decides to try a third location. He was finally successful. I must say that I was praying for grace to endure. It was not easy, on my part, but God provided.

My whole day of testing (consisting of several tests) lasted close to ten hours. My last test was an MRI which was to begin at 2:30 pm. They called me right on time but tried to stuff me in a regular MRI. Needless to say, that was impossible! So they decided to use the larger machine. It was already in use with another person waiting. So they took me over to the hospital to a larger MRI. They laid me on this little skinny table. I don’t even like to imagine how much of me was hanging off that table. I also had a huge wad of gauze that was taped to my hip to prevent bleeding. This ball of gauze was right on the edge of the table that is made in a “V” shape. The pressure on my hip was very uncomfortable. I asked the sweet lady that was doing the MRI how long this procedure would take. She said “at least an hour.” I prayed for endurance. God provided.

I will be the first to admit that this is not the same type of circumstances that Paul was speaking of too Timothy. Most of his were not health related, though some were. His lasted more than an hour and his days of persecution were longer than ten hours.

That being said when I think of my difficulties multiplied to the “enth” degree, I must say “What grace God supplies!” Paul spoke of enduring persecutions “but out of them all the Lord delivered me.” I am so glad that I can testify that though my hardships may be minor compared to Paul’s, still the Lord has delivered me, and he will deliver you.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram