I MUST BELIEVE GOD

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

 Psalm 34:19

 Do I believe the Scripture? If I do I must believe this verse. It has become very evident that the first part of this verse is true. “Many are the afflictions of the righteous.” The righteous have suffered for the cause of Christ. They have financial problems, health issues, family crisis, and countless other things going on in their lives. No, it is not hard to believe the first part of our text.

 But what about the second part of verse nineteen? “The Lord delivereth him out of them all.” John Allen Chau was a young missionary who desired, above anything else, to bring the gospel to a group of natives on North Sentinel Island. I believe this island is a part of India. The people of this island were very opposed to any outsiders. Chau had a burden for the people and was able to persuade a fisherman to smuggle him into the island. In November of 2018 natives were seen dragging and burying the body of Chau.

 I consider my family and the things that have claimed their lives: my two grandfathers both died of cancer; one grandmother was taken by heart problems; the other died from pneumonia; Dad died from COPD; Mom from pneumonia. Our family has experienced severe accidents, divorce, and tragedies like many other families. It seems that death has been the victor in all cases. So, how can I believe the second part of the verse? How can I believe that the Lord delivers the believer out of all these afflictions?

 From our perspective it seems that death is the final captor. Death appears to win in every case; but Christ through the resurrection overcame death. He has taken captivity captive. Now he uses death as our release from all our afflictions. In the death of a believer cancer doesn’t win at death but rather is stopped from its destruction. The martyr is not tormented or tortured anymore but is crowned with the glory of heaven. The COPD patient is no longer struggling for breath. Instead he is given the everlasting breath of eternal life. The old worn out preacher may never hear how successful he has been but he will hear “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

 Praise The Lord! We can believe all of God’s Word. We can believe all of this blessed verse. Yes, there are many afflictions that come our way but God will deliver us from all of them. You know Lazarus did have to die again after Jesus brought him from the grave. I have often wondered what his sisters might have said when he died the last time. I think they probably remembered the words of Christ, “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” John 11:25. So, let the devil throw all he will at us, for the Lord will deliver us from it all.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram