

Daily Devotion For June 17, 2022

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,^[a] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself." 2 Corinthians 1:8

"To be or not to be, that is the question." Have you heard that quote from Shakespeare? As I write this devotional it is Thursday afternoon and the Warriors and Boston Celtics will tip off in about 1 hour. Will the Warriors win and capture their 4th NBA Championship in 8 eight years? Or will the Boston Celtics win forcing a Father's Day game 7? Is it to be or not to be?

Shakespeare's famous quote is from the play "Hamlet" in which he speaks these lines. Hamlet is a melancholy prince who learns that his uncle has killed his father and married his mother. The horror of this realization is so disturbing that he contemplates suicide. The question for him was: "to be" (to go on living) or "not to be" (to take his own life).

At times, life's pain can become so overwhelming that we are tempted to despair. The apostle Paul told the church at Corinth that his persecution in Asia was so intense he "despaired even of life." 2 Corinthians 1:8. Yet by shifting his focus to his life-sustaining God, he became resilient instead of overwhelmed, and learned "that we should not trust in ourselves but in God" (v.9).

Thought For Today: Trials can make life seem not worth living. Focusing on ourselves can lead to despair. But putting our trust in God gives us an entirely different perspective. As long as we live in this world, we can be certain that our all-sufficient God will sustain us. And as His followers, we will always have a divine purpose "to be." Whether the Warriors win or lose, God is still in control!

Today's Prayer Focus: Thank God that He is sovereign and in control of all of life's circumstances, especially ours as believers. Deo Volente.