

THORN IN THE FLESH

11/30/24

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
- Title – “Thorn in the Flesh”

- “skolops” – (Strong’s 4647) – noun
“thorn” – some translate this a “splinter”
only used once
- “akantha” – (Strong’s 173) – noun
“thorn”
translated “thorn” – 14 times

2 Cor. 12:7 a thorn in the flesh was given to me – a messenger of Satan to buffet me –
lest I be exalted above measure

- Let's notice some background

2 Cor. 1:3 the God of all comfort – who comforts us in all our tribulation – that we
may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble

8 our trouble in Asia

- burdened beyond measure
- above strength
- so that we despaired even of life

9 we have the sentence of death in ourselves – that we should not trust in
 ourselves, but in God (who raises the dead)

10 God delivered us – does deliver us – will deliver us

2 Cor. 4:3-4 if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing – whose minds the god of this age has blinded – who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (who is the image of God) should shine on them

2 Cor. 11:3 for I fear (that as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness) that your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ

13-15 false apostles of Christ

20 the disciples allowed themselves to be abused

23-28 I speak as a fool – reminding them of his service to them

2 Cor. 12:1-4 reminded them of his visions and revelations

5 of such a person I will boost – yet I will not boast of myself – except in
my

infirmities

6 for though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool – for I will speak the truth – but I refrain (lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or what he hears from me)

2 Cor. 12:15 I will very gladly be spend and be spent for your souls – though the more
abundantly I love you, the less I am loved
17 did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?
18 I sent Titus – did Titus take advantage of you? – didn't Titus and I walk in
the same spirit?
20 I fear that when I come, I may not find you as such as I wish
21 when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall
mourn
for many who have sinned before and have not repented
2 Cor. 13:5 examine yourselves – test yourselves
9 for we are glad when we are weak and you are strong
11 finally brethren, farewell – be complete – be of good comfort – be of one
mind – live in peace – and the God of love and peace will be with
you

· 2 Corinthians 12:7-11

· The initial thorn

2 Cor. 12:7 a thorn in the flesh was given to me – a messenger of Satan to buffet me
–
lest I be exalted above measure

· Pleading with the Lord

2 Cor. 12:8 concerning this thing, I pleaded with the Lord 3 times – that it might
depart from me

· Accepting the Lord's response

2 Cor. 12:9 the Lord said – “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made
perfect in weakness” – therefore most gladly, I will rather boast in
my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me
10 therefore, I take pleasure in the following for Christ's sake

· in infirmities	· in persecutions
· in reproaches	· in distresses
· in needs	

for when I am weak, then I am strong

11 I have become a fool in boasting, you have compelled me – for I ought to
have been commended by you – for I am not behind the eminent
apostles, even though I am nothing

· Final scripture

Matt. 22:37-40 love the Lord – love your neighbor, as you love yourself