

MAN'S EXTREMITY - GOD'S OPPORTUNITY
II Cor. 12:8-9

I. Paul's Extremity.

- a. A secret trial, one he had to carry through life. Evidently at first Paul did not understand it.
- b. It was a difficult trial. This is evident because the Apostle shrunk from it, sought to get rid of it.
- c. It was a messenger of Satan, directed by Satan.

II. Paul's Extremity - God's Opportunity. "My grace is sufficient for you, my strength is made perfect in weakness."

- a. God's opportunity to answer Paul's prayer. Two-way dealing with trials; one to remove them, the other giving power to sustain one in them.
- b. God's opportunity to manifest His sufficient grace. "My grace is sufficient for thee." Not will be, but all about you now.
- c. God's opportunity to demonstrate the sufficiency of His grace. "My strength is made perfect in weakness." My grace finds its opportunities for its greatest achievements in weakness. This is the testimony of all experience.

III. Paul Triumphs In Extremity. "Most gladly therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmity that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

- a. It is a triumph in a fully harmonized will with Christ.
- b. It is a glad triumph, not a regret.
- c. It is a triumph in complete dependence upon Christ. "Power of Christ to tabernacle upon me."