



- Serving God is just like a roller coaster. There are ups and downs.
- Why are there so many ups and downs when we serve Christ? We need to understand this, lest we get caught off guard, become discouraged, and quit.

First, because when we serve Christ, _____ are impacted. vs. 7-10

- While Paul was preaching the gospel (vs. 7), one man was listening very intently. This man was impotent and crippled. vs. 8
- Because Paul was serving the Lord, he was able to impact this man's life for Christ.
- Paul said his _____ in heaven would be the people that he had impacted with the gospel of Christ.
- *"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy."* 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

Second, because when we serve Christ, _____ are unpredictable. vs. 11-19

- If people have any desire to serve God, they need to understand one thing - people will _____ and disappoint you.
- When Satan tries to discourage us, so many times the _____ he uses will be people.

- *“Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.”*
Ephesians 6:6-8
- We must keep our eyes focused upon Christ.

Third, because when we serve Christ, we are sure to endure _____ . vs. 19-20

- In Iconium, God delivered Paul **from** the stoning.
- In Lystra, God delivered Paul **through** the stoning.
- In the Bible, sometimes God delivered His children **from** trials, but most of the time God delivers His children **through** trials. Why is this? It is because, during these trials, the _____ of Christ is displayed through us.
- *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”* **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**