

# 2 Corinthians 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

## Analysis

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**But we had the sentence of death in ourselves** (τὸ ἀπόκριμα τοῦ θανάτου)—apokrima (ἀπόκριμα) is judicial: "official verdict/sentence/decreed." Perfect tense eschēkamen (ἐσχέκαμεν) suggests ongoing awareness: "we are dead men."

**That we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead**—hina (ἵνα, "in order that") reveals divine purpose: eliminate self-trust. God's epithet—"the one who raises the dead"—comes from Jewish liturgy (Shemoneh Esreh) but became Paul's experiential reality.

## Historical Context

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Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What 'death sentence' would God need to pronounce on my self-sufficiency before I truly depend on Him?
2. How does trusting 'God who raises the dead' differ from merely trusting Him to improve circumstances?
3. Where am I still 'trusting in myself'—what would full transfer to God look like?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀλλ'	αὐτοῖ	ἐν	ἐαυτοῖς	τοὺς	ἀπόκριμα	τοὺς	θανάτου
<b>But</b>	G846	<b>in</b>	<b>ourselves</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>the sentence</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>of death</b>
G235		G1722	G1438	G3588	G610	G3588	G2288
ἐσχήκαμεν	ἵνα	μὴ	πεποιθότες	ᾧμεν	ἐπὶ	ἐαυτοῖς	ἀλλ'
<b>we had</b>	<b>that</b>	G3361	<b>trust</b>	G5600	<b>in</b>	<b>ourselves</b>	<b>But</b>
G2192	G2443		G3982		G1909	G1438	G235
ἐπὶ	τοὺς	θεῷ	τοὺς	ἐγείροντι	τοὺς	νεκρούς·	
<b>in</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>God</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>raiseth</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>the dead</b>	
G1909	G3588	G2316	G3588	G1453	G3588	G3498	

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 3:5** (References God): Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

**2 Corinthians 4:7** (References God): But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

**Hebrews 11:19** (Resurrection): Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

**Job 40:14** (Parallel theme): Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.

**Luke 18:9** (Faith): And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

**Proverbs 28:26** (Faith): He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

**Ezekiel 33:13** (Faith): When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

**Psalms 22:29** (Parallel theme): All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

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