

2 Timothy 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Analysis

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Paul concludes with confident affirmation. "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work" (rhusetai me ho kyrios apo pantos ergou ponērou, ῥύσεται με ὁ κύριος ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔργου πονηροῦ). Future tense asserts certainty. Ponēros ergon (πονηροῦ ἔργον) means evil work—not every trial but every evil's ultimate success. God won't prevent Paul's execution but will ensure no evil truly defeats him. Death itself becomes deliverance, not defeat.

"And will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom" (kai sōsei eis tēn basileian autou tēn epouranion, καὶ σώσει εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν αὐτοῦ τὴν ἐπουράνιον). Sōzō (σώζω) means save, preserve, keep safe. Epouranios (ἐπουράνιος) means heavenly—not earthly kingdom but eternal, resurrection kingdom. This is ultimate deliverance: safe arrival in glory. Paul knows earthly death approaches, but true deliverance—safe passage into Christ's presence—is guaranteed. Martyrdom becomes coronation, execution becomes entrance into glory.

This confidence produces worship: "to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (hō hē doxa eis tous aiōnas tōn aiōnōn, amēn, ὧ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων, ἀμήν). Doxa (δόξα) means glory. "Eis tous aiōnas tōn aiōnōn" (εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων) literally means "unto the ages of the ages"—eternity. Amēn (ἀμήν) means "truly, certainly"—affirming truth. Facing execution, Paul worships. Suffering

doesn't diminish doxology but intensifies it. When earthly hopes fade, eternal glory shines brighter. Paul's example: authentic faith produces worship even in—especially in—darkest circumstances.

Historical Context

This doxology echoes many Pauline benedictions but carries special poignancy given context. Paul writes from death row, yet worships. Early Christians facing martyrdom consistently testified to peace and joy, confounding pagan observers. Pliny the Younger reported Christians sang hymns to Christ even under torture. Such supernatural peace validated gospel truth. Paul models this: confident in God's deliverance (whether through miraculous rescue or death into glory), he worships. The doxology reminds believers that God's glory, not personal comfort, is life's ultimate purpose. Suffering that brings God glory is success, not failure.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you define 'deliverance' as earthly comfort and success or as safe arrival in Christ's heavenly kingdom?
2. How can you cultivate Paul's perspective that sees death not as defeat but as ultimate deliverance into glory?
3. Does suffering diminish your worship or, like Paul, does it intensify your focus on God's eternal glory?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ρύσεται	με	ὁ	κύριος	ἀπὸ	παντὸς	ἔργου	πονηροῦ
And	shall deliver	me	G3588	the Lord	from	every	work	evil
G2532	G4506	G3165		G2962	G575	G3956	G2041	G4190
καὶ	σώσει	εἰς	τὴν	βασιλείαν	αὐτοῦ	τὴν	ἐπουράνιον·	
And	will preserve	for	G3588	kingdom	G846	G3588	heavenly	
G2532	G4982	G1519		G932			G2032	
ὧ	ἡ	δόξα	εἰς	τοὺς	αἰώνων	τῶν	αἰώνων	ἀμήν
to whom	G3588	be glory	for	G3588	and ever	G3588	and ever	Amen
G3739		G1391	G1519		G165		G165	G281

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 121:7 (Evil): The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Evil): But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Matthew 6:13 (Kingdom): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (References Lord): And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:5 (Parallel theme): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Psalms 73:24 (Glory): Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Hebrews 13:21 (Kingdom): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

2 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Psalms 37:28 (Evil): For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

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