Overview Chart of Paul's Suffering

The chart below is taken from pages 286-287 of Michael J. Gorman's *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001). Used with permission.

| Catalog of Paul's Sufferings | Generalized Pain and Suffering | Public Disgrace and Psychological Pain | Physical Deprivation and Pain | Fatigue from Physical Labor | Political Punishment and Torture |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Corinthians 4:8-13 | last of all; as though sentenced to death; weak; like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things | spectacle to the world; fools for the sake of Christ; held in disrepute; reviled; slandered | hungry and thirsty; poorly clothed; homeless | weary from the work of our own hands | beaten; persecuted |
| 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 | affliction; sufferings of Christ in abundance; felt that we had received the sentence of death | so utterly, unbearably crushed; despaired of life itself | so deadly a peril | | |
| 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 | afflicted; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus; always being given up to death for Jesus' sake | perplexed | | | persecuted; struck down |
| 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 | afflictions; hardships; calamities; as dying | riots; dishonor; ill repute; treated as impostors; as unknown; sorrowful | imprisonments; sleepless nights; hunger; poor; having nothing | labors | beatings; punished |
| 2 Corinthians 11:23- 33 | weak/weakness | daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches; indignant (offended?) | five times forty lashes minus one; once a stoning; three times shipwrecked; a night and a day adrift at sea; in danger from rivers, bandits, Jews, Gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness, at | (far greater) labors [than the "superapostles"]; frequent journeys; toil and hardship | (far more) imprisonments [than the "superapostles"]; countless floggings; often near death; three times beaten with rods; near-arrest |

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| | | | sea, from false brothers and sisters; many a sleepless night; hungry and thirsty; often without food; cold; naked | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 2 Corinthians 12:10 | weaknesses; calamities | insults | hardships | persecutions |
| Romans 8:35 | hardship; distress; peril | | famine; nakedness | persecution; [sword]* |

^{*}The sword (v. 35) likely refers to the Roman practice of beheading with the sword (Johns S. Pobee, *Persecution and Martyrdom in the Theology of Paul*, JSNTSup6 [Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1985], p. 5), with which Paul would have been familiar but had obviously not yet experienced. (The list in Rom. 8:35 is a list of threats to believers, most experienced but some perhaps only potential, and thus differs slightly from the other lists presented here.)