

2Corinthians – Week 13

I. Review: 2Cor. 4:7-12

A. In chapter 5:1, Paul mentions a time will come when we will have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

B. But until that time, now is the time for...

i. Jars of clay (v. 7).

1. Paul, Timothy and Silas (along with all disciples) are those jars of clay!

2. God has placed his treasure in such jars:

a. *“the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ”* (v. 4)

3. As jars, we, in our current state, are fragile, cheap, inferior, unattractive, ordinary vessels conveying an invaluable message!

a. Therefore, what’s exalted is the power of God, not man!

4. These jars of clay are subject to all kinds of afflictions!

a. However, Paul saw these afflictions as pointing to the death of Christ (suffering)

5. But through the power of God, the afflicted *“jars of clay”* made it to Corinth, giving life to those who believed the gospel and were baptized (cf. Acts 18:8)!

C. More on Paul’s suffering...

II. Continuation

A. 2Cor. 4:13 (ESV), *“Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak,”*

i. Paul quotes Psalm 116:10

1. When King David uttered these words, he was greatly afflicted!

a. And in his affliction he spoke to God!

b. David spoke of his confidence in Him and proclaimed his reliance on Him!

c. David trusted in God despite the trials he was experiencing.

2. In the same manner, Paul, despite of being afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down, trusted God and so he spoke!

a. He would not be silent no matter what!

b. A person’s convictions and beliefs can be known by a person’s conversation. Consider the words of Jesus...

i. Jesus said in Matthew 12:34b that *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”*

1. The good news of Christ was deeply entrenched in Paul’s heart!

2. His passionate speech revealed what was abundantly in his heart: Christ as Lord! (cf. vs. 5).

c. His passion was fueled by his belief that he, his companions, and the Corinthians would one day be raised from their graves to be with God...

B. 2Cor. 4:14 (ESV), *“knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.”*

i. Paul believed that one day, he, Timothy and Silas (i.e., *“us”*), along with the Corinthians (i.e., *“you”*) would be raised from the dead, with new bodies, and brought into God’s presence!

ii. Imagine that?

1. Now, according to John 5:25-29, the Lord Jesus will call the dead out of their graves!

a. Therefore, the *“with Jesus”* could be understood as *“by Jesus”* (KJV), that is, by the power or agency of Christ!

2. And the faithful in Christ will be presented into God's presence as...
 - a. People recovered from the ruins of this condemned world!
 - b. People saved by the merits of the death of Christ!
 3. This verse is akin to what Jude says...
 - a. *"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy" Jude 1:24 (ESV)*
 - i. We will be presented blameless and with great joy, not with fear!
 - iii. By the way, we see from this passage the implication that when we die, we do not go directly into God's presence (Heaven)!
 1. We must wait for the resurrection of the dead!
 2. Notice what Jesus said in John 14:1-3...
 - a. *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:1-3 ESV)*
 - i. Notice how Jesus tells His apostles (who are currently in their graves) that He will come again and take them to where He is.
 - ii. Clearly, Christ is speaking regarding the resurrection, where He – as Paul puts it -- will raise those dead in Him and bring them into God's presence!
- C. 2Cor. 4:15 (ESV), *"For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God."*
- i. For it is all for your sake...
 1. Paul's ministry, his hardships, his bold speech, was so that...
 - a. The Corinthians may benefit on the day when Jesus calls the dead from their graves (vs. 14)!
 - b. The Corinthians may thank God on that day!
 - ii. And his ministry was not only to benefit them, but to benefit all who would hear and believe the gospel!
 - iii. Paul's mission in life was to increase the throng of thanksgiving and praises to God by those redeemed by the gospel message! Is that your mission in life?
 - iv. Evangelism is for the ultimate purpose of bringing glory to God!
 1. And for this reason, Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of evangelism!
 2. And what brings glory to God? Men and women giving thanks and praise to God -- in this world and in the next!