

2Corinthians – Week 14

I. Review: 2Cor. 4:13-15

A. Paul quotes Psalm 116:10

- i. When King David uttered these words, he was greatly afflicted!
- ii. In the same manner, Paul, despite of being afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down, trusted God and would not be silent no matter what!
 1. His passion was fueled by his belief in the resurrection: that he, his companions, and the Corinthians would one day be raised from their graves to be with God!
- iii. Paul's ministry, his hardships, his bold speech, was so that all who would accept his message would benefit them at the resurrection!

B. Evangelism is for the ultimate purpose of bringing glory to God!

- i. And what brings glory to God? Men and women giving thanks to God -- in this world and in the next!

II. Continuation: 1Cor. 4:16-18

A. 1Corinthians 4:16 (ESV), *“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”*

- i. *“Lose heart”* means that Paul continued to be speak boldly and honestly.
 1. All of his sufferings were part of God's plan to display the death and resurrection of Jesus in his life so that the grace of God (that is, the gospel and its promises) would overflow to as many as people as possible so that all of those people would give thanks to God as a result!
- ii. The *“outer self”* (i.e., the jars of clay) was wasting away!
 1. It was part of this physical world and it was subject to afflictions and persecutions, which Paul called *“the death of Jesus”* in verse 10.
- iii. However, the *“inner self”* was moving in the opposite direction!
 1. It was being renewed day by day!
 2. It was looking forward to the age to come!

B. 1Corinthians 4:17(ESV), *“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,”*

- i. Paul's afflictions were not minor, especially after what he said in 2Cor. 1:8...
 1. *“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.”*
 2. Not to mention his being nearly stoned to death and being beaten with rods and whips (cf. 2Cor. 11:23-25)!
- ii. But compared to what waits in glory (which has an eternal weight), the worse affliction is light, not to mention, momentary!
 1. Paul mentioned something similar in Romans...
 - a. Romans 8:18 (ESV), *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*
 2. A person once told me this, when thinking of eternity:
 - a. How long would it take for an ant to walk the circumference of a metal ball the size of the earth and wear it down to where it is split into two halves? That would be like 1 day in eternity! With an eternal amount of days left!

- C. 1Corinthians 4:18 (ESV), “*as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*”**
- i. Look not to the things that are seen!**
 - 1. Do not focus on the afflictions and persecutions!**
 - a. Otherwise they would seem heavy and long.**
 - b. And this will tempt us to lose heart and fall away from God!**
 - ii. But look to the things that are unseen!**
 - 1. If you concentrate and focus on the eternal glories of the future world, you will see your afflictions as light and temporary!**
 - 2. And you will not pursue the things of this world, knowing that that which is seen is temporary, but that which is unseen is eternal!**
 - iii. That which is seen is transient (temporary):**
 - 1. In context, this refers to:**
 - a. Pain, sorrow and suffering!**
 - i. The acutest pain will soon be over!**
 - ii. The most lingering disease will soon cease!**
 - iii. All suffering will soon pass.**
 - 2. In principle, this also holds true for:**
 - a. Riches, fame and pleasure!**
 - i. The most costly home will decay!**
 - ii. The most exquisite earthly pleasure will come to an end!**
 - iii. Every pleasure can only be enjoyed for a little time!**
 - iv. That which is unseen is eternal:**
 - 1. This pertains to everything beyond the grave!**
 - a. To the faithful Christian, the glories of the new heavens and earth!**
 - b. To the others, the terrors that await in the pits of hell!**