

March 13, 2022
II Corinthians 4:7-18
Our Momentary Light Affliction

The grace of God is His unmerited goodness and kindness to people. These characteristics should be found in His people as well. A selfless heart works for the benefit of others and to the glory of God.

Part of the transforming process of our renewing is suffering. As harsh as they were, Paul compared them as being light and momentary troubles. They were nothing in view of his eternal glory.

The message of the New Covenant is that Jesus saves. God delights in using common everyday people who are humble and often overlooked by society. By working this way God gets the glory, not the messenger. Paul knew that his weaknesses best manifested God's glory and strength.

God did not use: scholars, the religious leaders, or the rhetoricians of his day. He passed them by and used shepherds, fishermen, and tax collectors. By using frail, fallible people God makes it clear that the power lies in the divine message, not the messenger.

Humility and weakness do not hinder someone from doing God's work, they actually strengthen the person and are just the qualities God uses.

Dying here in **vv 10-11** is the process of dying, not the event of dying, this signifies an ongoing process of daily dying for the cause of Christ.

Paul wanted to lead as many as possible to Christ thereby adding more and more voices to the Hallelujah chorus of praise and worship to God.

There is glory through suffering. Don't grow weary, don't become discouraged. The outer man was getting weaker by the day but the inner man stronger. This was and is the great trade off! Live for Jesus!

Application:

As followers of Jesus Christ do not look down on your weaknesses. Instead, consider our message today in light of this statement by Paul, "Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful." (**I Corinthians 1:27** NLT)

Keep in mind the idea of dying daily for our faith, an on going daily occurrence, not a one time event. God uses the humble and the weak to carry around in jars of clay (our mortal bodies) the most important news the world has ever known. Jesus told Nicodemus, you must be born again, it is not an option, see **John chapter three**. Jesus told Thomas, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (**John 14:6** CSB) Contrary to what the world thinks, there are not many roads that lead to heaven, only one, only by the grace of God through faith can a person be born again. It is not by one's works or doing good that a person is saved from the powerful grip of sin. Paul told the Philippian jailor, "... believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-you and your household." (**Acts 16:31** CSB)

When is the last time you shared your faith with those the Lord brings into your life daily?

We see from our text today that believers are just plain old ordinary people who have weaknesses and walk in humility. Yet, found in these perishing bodies, these jars of clay, we possess the most precious thing known to mankind, the words of eternal life. (meditate on **John 6:60-69**) God chose you, pilgrim, to share this good news. In Christ, you are His disciple, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (**Matthew 28:19-20** CSB)

HELPING PEOPLE LOVE JESUS AND LOVE OTHERS

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

(1 John 4:19 NIV)