

2 Corinthians Redone

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

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, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 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.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

...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 (*that is fading away*), but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18

Are we looking at the eternal or are we pre-occupied and distracted by the things that are fading away?

Because if we have our eyes on the eternal it will give us the strength and clarity to rightly respond and endure the most difficult parts of human existence: namely people, death, and suffering.

I. How We View People

- The Metaphor
- The Treasure

II. Jars of Clay

Application

We have the seen which is the external appearance of others and we have the unseen, which is the treasure or knowledge of Jesus Christ.

III. How We View Death

Verse 7 ...to show that surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Verse 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Verse 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanks giving to the glory of God.

What can be seen is all that we are giving up. The unseen is the treasure of God spilling over onto others.

verse 14 ...knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. CS Lewis

IV. How We View Suffering

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. 2 Corinthians 4:17

What is easily seen is suffering. The unseen is the eternal weight of glory.

God doesn't just destroy these trials but he humiliates them. He humiliates them by causing them to serve you. Trials now prepare us for glory and death becomes only the door to our treasure.