

2 Corinthians

Lesson #9, Chapter 4:7-18

Read Chapter 4 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord for insights into His powerful Word.

1. What is the treasure Paul is talking about in verse 7? See the preceding verses for the answer.
2. What are the earthen vessels referring to? What is the purpose of treasure in earthen vessels (verse 7)?
3. In verses 8-9 Paul states things 4 things he is and 4 things he is not. List them below.
4. What does it mean to “carry about in the body the dying of Jesus?” See verses 8-9; also Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:21-24.
5. What kind of life is Paul referring to in verses 10-11? See also Jn. 14:19; Rom. 6:8-10; 2 Cor. 13:4.
6. What is the purpose of carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus and being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake in verses 10-12?

7. Paul relates his afflictions in verse 13 to David's trials in Ps. 116:10. What kind of faith did David exhibit in the midst of his troubles and how is that similar to Paul?

8. What conclusion does Paul's faith take him to in verses 14-15?

9. How is verse 16 tied to the preceding verses?

10. Why doesn't Paul lose heart?

11. How is it being renewed (verses 17-18)? See Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:20-23; Col. 3:10.

12. Paul says his afflictions are momentary and light compared to what in verse 17? For an example of Paul's "momentary and light" afflictions see 11:23-29.

13. *Afflictions producing an eternal weight of glory.* The verb is present tense, indicative mood and middle voice. This means it is a continuous action, a certainty, and the subject (afflictions) initiates the action and participates in the results of the action! Wow! Look up the following verses to note how God uses affliction in our lives: Matt. 5:12; Rom. 8:17-18; 1 Pet. 1:6-7 and 4:13.

14. While affliction is doing its work in us, what are we to do (verse 18)? See also Rom. 8:24; 2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 3:2; Heb. 11:1.

15. Are you choosing to live a resurrected life in the midst of your trials? Are the things which are not seen (i.e., your hope of heaven, God's plan in your life, His working in you, our Lord Himself) more dear to you than the things which are seen? If not, pray that God would align your attitudes with His and saturate yourself in the Word of God—read it, listen to it, meditate on it and memorize it.

When God lays men upon their backs, then they look up to heaven. God's smiting His people is like the musician's striking upon the violin, which makes it put forth melodious sound. How much good comes to the saints by afflictions! When they are pounded they send forth their sweetest smell. Affliction is a bitter root, but it bears sweet fruit.

– Thomas Watson