



### **MESSAGE/SERIES:**

Suffering for the Glory “**Certain Suffering for the Saint**”-*Pastor Michael Baker*

**DATE:** March 17, 2019

**SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:** **2 Corinthians 4:(17-18)**, 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, Ephesians 3:14-19, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, Acts 20:24, Romans 12:2, **Romans 8:18-23**, 24-25, Hebrews 11:1-13

**OPENING SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

<sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> 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.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 4:13–18.

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## OUTLINE:

**[Context] 2 Corinthians 4:7-11** *“But we have **this treasure in jars of clay**, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.<sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;<sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;<sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.<sup>11</sup> 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.*

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 4:7–11.*

- Paul has just given the **illustration of the treasure** (the message and person of Christ) that is placed in our bodies
- It is **because of this message and because of Christ** that true believers are afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, struck down...

(V16-18) Paul uses the language and symbols of the people to get their attention (see terms below)

### I. The Glory Extended Through Us...**THAT is CAUSATIVE**

- **Producing Faith-** (v13) This same **“Spirit of Faith”** is referring to the Faith that the writer of *Psalms 116:10* *“I believed, (therefore) even when I spoke: “I am greatly afflicted”*
  - The Psalmist and Paul shared the same faith; a strong Faith with a common source (Faith that was *birthed from above/and focused on an unchanging God*)
- **Producing Evangelism-** (v13) **“I believed, and so I spoke”**= A true Faith that is from God cannot help but speak as it is too great to contain.
  - Why don't we speak more about who Jesus truly is?
  - How can we contain so great a message and person of Jesus in our body and Him not come out somewhere?
- **Producing Salvation-** (v15) **“It is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people”**

- God's grace is spread by the means of our mouths (the sharing of the gospel) that comes from a boldness
- **Producing Thanksgiving-** (v16) *"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.**"*
  - The Spreading of the gospel produces thanksgiving in the receiver of the gospel of grace
  - The Spreading of the gospel of grace produces a Thanksgiving in the conduit of the gospel of grace (the messengers)
  - The Spreading of the gospel of grace produces a Thanksgiving in the church; the body of believers as a whole (the church universal)

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**“GOD is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.”**

(John Piper)

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**Are we not most satisfied in Him when:**

- *We see Him at work in us,*
- *through us,*
- *and all around us?*

**II. The Glory Extended Through Us...THAT is STEADFAST**

- **Producing a hopeful view of man-** (v16) *"So we do not lose heart. Though **our outer self is wasting away...**"*
  - Where God's glory is shining through His gospel of grace there is understanding of the current fallen state of the world...
    - *These bodies are not the final state of the believer*
    - *These bodies will be renewed (glorified at the return of Christ)*
      - *Therefore I do not over invest my comfort and love on this physical estate*
      - *However I do not neglect this physical body that is currently the temple of God*
        - **2 Corinthians 6:16b-***"...For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling*

*among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.'*

- *\*See Paul's Cultural approach to Platonism in terms*
- *However as a comparison Paul is mostly speaking to the...*

- ***Mortal fallen state of man***
- ***vs the Eternal and glorified state of man.***

- **Producing a new mind-** (v16) *"...our inner self is being renewed day by day."*
  - **Romans 7:22-** *"For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members."*
  - **"Inner Being"**- Is not speaking of just the Soul & Spirit as we know God does intend for us to live eternally in a glorified physical body,
    - but is speaking mostly to the eternal estate that is now in the world (Christ is King Ruling and Reigning now)
    - This **Kingdom** is being brought into full consummation by the Glory of God working in the gospel of grace
- **Producing a new creation-** As believers we should be growing in, being renewed...
  - to a greater understanding/true knowledge of Christ
  - Renewed and strengthened in the spiritual power of God as there will be more spiritual control in our lives with more surrender to His grace.
  - Ultimately When Paul is talking about this inner self he is referring to **the new creation that you are** and that He is preparing for you to be for all of eternity.
    - **2 Corinthians 5:17-** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*
    - **"Renewed"**- to become reestablished like-new often improved state.
  - Your Spiritual man is being primed for that eternal glorified body (completeness) when God forever deals with the dead and the fall forever.
    - Eternally Rescued from the presence of Sin.

### III. The Glory Extended Through Us... THAT is PREPARATORY

- **Produces a readiness & eagerness-** (v17) “*For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...*”
    - **Romans 8:18-21-** ‘*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* <sup>19</sup> *For the creation waits with eager longing for the **revealing of the sons of God.*** <sup>20</sup> *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope* <sup>21</sup> *that the **creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.***”
      - The Glory that is to be revealed to us is Jesus in person
      - The Glory we experience in small waves is preparatory for that moment when we see Him face to face in His fullness
  - **Produces a Preparatory for a greater glory-** (v17) “preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...”
    - God allows us to see a little of Himself now through nature, other Christians...etc...but *on that day we will see Him as He is and **nothing can ever compare to the glory we will see on that day***
    - But also here we contrast the weight of the suffering now to the payoff on that day of seeing Him...
      - if it's not all worth it now on that day it will be worth all the suffering you ever endured...
  - (v18b) “...*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!*”
    - “**Transient**”= “temporary, transient,” is rendered “for a season”
      - This suffering is for season
      - This temporary struggle is for a short season
      - There is no retirement in the kingdom work of God...we will rest in Him through all eternity
      - Invest in the things that matter and are eternal (God, His mission, and His Kingdom)
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## TERMS:

**Platonist:** “By Paul’s day many Platonists thought that bodily things were heavy and weighed down the soul, but that the soul was light; once freed by the body’s death, it would soar up to the pure heavens from which it had originated. Paul here inverts the image but perhaps partly for a play on words that a few Jewish readers skilled in Hebrew exposition might catch: “glory” and “weight, heaviness,” represent the same Hebrew word.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 2 Co 4:17–18.

**Dualism:** (Platonist) “Some scholars have inferred from this verse that Paul is adopting a dualistic view of the human constitution, one which regards the inner nature (soul) as destined for immortality, but the outer nature (body) as that which shall pass away. However, the rest of Paul’s writings about personal eschatology make it very clear that he looked for a future existence not as a disembodied soul but as a whole person—with a resurrected body. Paul’s longing is not for the freedom of an immortal soul liberated from the shackles of the body, but rather to experience life in the presence of God in a resurrection body.”

Colin G. Kruse, *2 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 8, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987), 109–110.

(v18) “**Transient,**” is used to convey the brevity of human life”

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----  
Church,

Nothing compares to what awaits us when we see His face. If you know Him as Lord and savior the short season of suffering that seems an eternity here on earth is nothing in comparison to the Glory of God that awaits His children when He returns to take us home. Do you struggle with the suffering you endure in this life... I challenge you not to give up and He will produce His glory in your life as now and the peace of great reward when we see Him face to face. His glory in us is Causative, it’s Steadfast, and it’s Preparatory for the future glory we are assured of as Children of God. Lift up your head child of God and see the battle is over and the victory is won... His return is soon and we will be home.

Love in Christ,  
*Pastor Michael*

