

# Paul Under Stress and Pressure

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Last week we looked at the subject of suffering and comfort. **1:8-10.**

The magnitude of Paul's suffering  
The disease this suffering helped prevent  
The three-fold deliverance of God.

### I. Connections in Chapter 4

**4:11** -- reminds us of what Paul has already said in **1:3-7**

**1:9** – The theme of resurrection – and it appears again in **4:14** and then in **chapter 5** – he breaks into a discussion about heaven – where believers go when they die. And exhorts us in **5:8-10.**

### II. The Natural Frailty of the Child of God v. 7

#### A. The Earthen Vessel

1. This verse starts with the word “but” to contrast v. 6.
2. Paul's imagery

#### B. The Treasure Itself

#### C. The Scriptures declare that We are Earthen Vessels.

### **III. Paul Describes His Stress and Pressure 4:8-9**

Paul gives four paradoxical statements.

These verses should be great encouragements to every Christian.

1. *Hard pressed on every side* yet not crushed.

2. *Perplexed*, but not in despair.

Hard to translate.

We could say, "*without resources but not totally without resources*".

3. *Persecuted*, but not forsaken.

4. *Struck down*, but not destroyed.

### **IV. Life and Death 4:10**

By His death, we receive life.

This world and all within it is temporary. Eternity awaits. 4:16-17.