

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Life Through Death

I. The Condition (v.7) – ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

II. The Contradictions (v.8-9) – ⁸ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

III. The Commission (v.10-11) – ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

IV. The Conclusion (v.12) – ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.

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1. Launching Question(s):

- Is there a particular weakness that you have experienced that God used to teach you to love Him or others more?

2. Observation Question(s):

- The “treasure” spoken of in vs. 7 is the Gospel as described by Paul in the previous verses (4:6), “the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
- How is the Gospel light? How is it a treasure?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What does Paul mean when he says, “we have this treasure in earthen vessels” (v.7)?
- He goes on to explain the reason why “we have this treasure in earthen vessels.” It is “so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”
- Why is this reason important?
- How does it relate to the Reformation call of “Soli Deo Gloria?”

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Paul presents four contradictions in vs. 8.
- Why is it that our weakness is essential to God’s plan?

5. Application Question(s):

- What are ways that you can die to self this week?