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## FOCUS

### II Corinthians 4:16-18

Look to 2010. Two things we know will be true:

1. You will get older. Your body will age and decay.
2. You will have troubles. Afflictions.

The distinctive Christian perspective will make all the difference in whether you have joy in spite of this or not.

Paul nowhere articulates this perspective better than in

#### II Corinthians 4:16-18.

- I. As your body grows weaker, your spirit grows stronger (v16)

Renewed daily

How?

- II. As you consider 3 great contrasts concerning your troubles:

(Remember Paul knew severe troubles, so he has credibility: see 11:23-28)

- A. Their OUTCOME: **Troubles vs** \_\_\_\_\_ (v17)  
“achieving”? Not merit, but simply the spiritual principle:  
As Humility → Exaltation (remember Magnificat:  
Luke 2:46-55)  
Cf. Philippians 2:5-11

So Suffering → Glory for followers of Christ

Egs: Romans 8:16-17

I Peter 4:12-13

Matthew 5:10-12

James 1:2-4

The Day of Revelation 7:15-17 is coming.

One year closer.

- B. Their WEIGHT: Light in comparison with \_\_\_\_\_ of Glory (v17)

Even Paul's sufferings (eg: 1:8: same word: “weighed down”) will seem like a feather in comparison with the weight of Glory revealed in him. And you.

Picture a scale...

- C. Their LENGTH: **Momentary vs** \_\_\_\_\_ (v17)

What are 70-80 years in comparison with eternity?

Picture a dot and an infinitely long line...

Meditate on that

- III. So this year FOCUS (v18)

Fix your gaze. Rivet your attention.

- A. NOT on what you see with your eyes: this world

Everything you see is so very temporary.

- B. BUT on what you see with Scripture-instructed eyes of faith: the new Heavens and Earth.

That is **eternal**.

Set aside 10 minutes a day this year to think on this. The altered perspective will change your life.