

"The Cost of Doing Ministry Right"

Real Ministry in a Dot.Com World • part 8

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

INTRODUCTION

"The cost of a thing is the amount of what I call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run."

– Henry David Thoreau

1. *God's delight* (4:7)

- "this treasure"
2 Cor. 4:1, 6

- "in earthen vessels"

- "greatness of the power...of God"

"Until men recognize that they owe everything to God, that they are nourished by His Fatherly care, that He is the author of their every good, that they should seek nothing beyond Him, they will never yield Him willing service. Nay, unless they establish their complete happiness in Him, they will never give themselves truly and sincerely to Him."
– John Calvin

2. *Our death* (4:8-12)

- "afflicted"
- "perplexed"
- "persecuted"
- "struck down"

- "carrying the dying of Jesus"
Rom. 8:36; 1 Cor. 4:9-13; 15:31; Gal. 6:17
Jn. 15:20; Mt. 10:24-25

From prayer that asks that I may be
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher,
From silken self, O Captain, free
Thy soldier who would follow Thee.

From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakenings,
Not thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified,
From all that dims Thy Calvary,
O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

– Amy Charmichael

MAIN IDEA

*Fruitfulness in ministry comes by death _____,
and submission _____.*