

Making Jesus Known-No Matter the Cost

II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the **excellency of the power may be of God**, and not of us. 8 *We are troubled* on every side, **yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10** Always **bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.** 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.**

- Don't forget that Paul is under attack in Corinth

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

- The legalists, Judaizers, must destroy Paul to get a following
- They attack his character
- They even attacked his personal appearance

II Corinthians 10:10 For *his* letters, **say they,** are weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.

- Paul appears to have been a very unimpressive, common man
- Paul knew that he was a nobody and didn't deserve to be in the ministry I Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am **not meet to be called an apostle,** because I persecuted the church of God. I Timothy 1:12-13 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, **putting me** into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but **I obtained mercy,** because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.
- The men and women that God uses are never perfect
 - Abraham who lied about Sarah being his sister
 - Moses who killed a man and said he couldn't speak well
 - King David failed with Bathsheba

- Elijah falls into depression after his great victory over the prophets of Baal
- Peter denied Jesus

1. Focus on the treasure not the vessel **7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**
 - a. The only value the vessel has is the treasure that is in it!
 - i. The treasure is the ministry that He has given us
 - ii. The treasure is the Holy Spirit in us that will be and is doing the ministry
 - iii. The treasure is the gospel, the good news, that He has given us that makes us of any value that we might have
 - b. God chose to use us like He did Paul to deliver His message **Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.**
 - i. He chose Paul to carry His message.

- ii. He chose us to do the same [John 15:16](#) Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you**, and **ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
- c. Though we are but earthen vessels or clay we were each made by prescription [Psalm 139:13](#) For thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. [14](#) I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: Marvellous *are* thy works; And *that* my soul knoweth right well. [15](#) My substance was not hid from thee, When I was made in secret, *And* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. [16](#) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; And **in thy book all my members were written, Which in continuance were fashioned**, *when as yet there was none of them.*
 - i. It is easy to wonder if we can be used
 - ii. We focus too much on the vessel and we can see our defects

- iii. Remember He made you, the vessel, and He knew exactly what He was doing
- d. As vessels we should seek to be fit to do the work of God
II Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. **21** If **a man therefore purge himself** from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, **sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**
- e. We are vessels so He can use us but we are earthen so that we know that it is Him not us!
- f. Paul did not compare himself with others
II Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or **compare ourselves** with some that **commend themselves:** but they measuring themselves by themselves, and **comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.** **13** But **we will not boast of things without our measure,** but according to the measure of the rule which God hath

distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. 17

But he that glorieth, **let him glory in the Lord.**

18 For **not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.**

2. Let God care for the vessel 8 *We are **troubled** on every side, **yet not distressed**; we are **perplexed**, but **not in despair**; 9 **Persecuted**, but **not forsaken**; **cast down**, but **not destroyed**;*
 - a. God uses trials for His glory.
 - b. There is no escaping troubles and trials
 - c. God is glorified through weak vessels **II Corinthians 12:9**
*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me**. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong**.*
 - d. Trials and troubles are simply and expected part of life and serving God **1:5** For as the **sufferings** of Christ

abound in us, so our **consolation also aboundeth** by Christ. **1:8** For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were **pressed out of measure, above strength**, insomuch that we **despaired even of life:** **9** But we had **the sentence of death in ourselves**, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: **6:4-5** But **in all things approving ourselves** as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, **5** In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; **I Corinthians 4:11** Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; **II Corinthians 11:23-27** **Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more;** in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. **24** Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. **25** Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26** *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in*

perils by the heathen, *in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;* 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

- e. Every thing may come against Paul or us but we are never defeated and always have the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord 8 *We are **troubled** on every side, **yet not distressed;** we are **perplexed,** but **not in despair;** 9 **Persecuted,** but **not forsaken;** **cast down,** but **not destroyed;***
- f. Since we are His servants He takes care of us as we continue to carry His message

- 3. Our focus must be on the Master not the servant 10 *Always **bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.** 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, **that***

the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

- a. Paul had the marks of Jesus in his body [Galatians 6:17](#)
From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
- b. Suffering was a way of life for Paul [Romans 8:36](#) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- c. Suffering for the cause of Christ is a badge of honor [Philippians 3:10](#) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; [Colossians 1:24](#) Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:
- d. Suffering was to be expected [Matthew 10:16-24](#) Behold, I send you forth **as sheep in the midst of wolves**: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. [17](#) But **beware of men**: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; [18](#) And ye shall be brought before governors and kings

for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And **the brother shall deliver up the brother to death,** and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 **And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake:** but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. 24 **The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord.** John 15:18-21 If the world hate you, ye know that **it hated me before *it* hated you.**

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because **ye are not of the world,** but I have chosen you out of the world, **therefore the world hateth you.**

20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. **If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;** if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you **for my name's sake,** because they know not him that sent me.

- e. It is really not about us but about Him
- f. Let's pay the price to make Him known no matter what it costs us