

# Eternal Perspective rather than Temporary Focus!

II Corinthians 4:12 So then **death worketh in us**, but life in you. 13 We having **the same spirit of faith**, according as it is written, **I believed, and therefore have I spoken**; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. 15 **For all things are for your sakes**, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 **For which cause we faint not**; but though our outward man perish, yet **the inward man is renewed day by day**. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, **worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; **but the things which are not seen are eternal**.

1. Death works in us! 12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

- a. Paul was willing to pay any price to get the gospel to the world. Death was not off the table **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.**
- b. Paul would suffer anything for the cause of Christ and the elect, God's people **II Timothy 2:10** **Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**
- c. It is this tremendous love for the risen Lord Jesus and what He has done in Paul's life that gives him the power to suffer for Christ
- d. The fact that there was so much opposition simply proved to Paul that Satan was in opposition

2. Paul had a clear, strong faith in the Lord Jesus and the God who raised Him from the dead **13 We having the same spirit of faith,** according as it is written, **I believed, and therefore have I spoken;** we also believe, and therefore speak; **14** Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us with you.*
- a. How could Paul believe the Word of God without preaching it? It is either true or it isn't.
  - b. Paul felt like he had to preach. **I Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!**
  - c. Is the reason you lack conviction in your conversations because you lack that conviction in your heart?
  - d. Since He believed in the God that raised Jesus from the dead and death has no more power, Paul was unafraid of death and its threats **II Timothy 4:6-8 For I am now ready to be offered,** and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: **8** Henceforth **there is laid**

**up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**

- e. Paul believed that they would be raised as well as him. They would soon be together before God being presented by Jesus Himself
- f. We have a glorious future **I Thessalonians 4:13** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, **that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17** Then we which are alive *and* remain **shall be caught up together with them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore comfort one

another with these words.

3. Thanksgiving to redound to the glory of God **15 For all things are for your sakes**, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
  - a. Paul suffered not only for the Lord Jesus but for the saints
  - b. He wanted people to know of the abundant grace of God
  - c. He knew that grace would cause thanksgiving
  - d. Thanksgiving would cause glory to overflow for God
  
4. Our inward man is renewed day by day **16 For which cause we faint not**; but though our outward man perish, yet **the inward man is renewed day by day**.
  - a. Paul's faith helped him not faint **Acts 20:24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.
  - b. Allow God to renew your strength **Isaiah 40:28** Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *That* the everlasting **God, the Lord, The Creator** of the ends of the earth,

**Fainteth not, neither is weary?** *There is no searching of his understanding.* 29 He giveth power to the faint; And to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But **they that wait upon the Lord shall renew *their* strength;** They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; *And* they shall walk, and not faint.

- c. He had problems and every reason to be discouraged but believed that the God who raised Jesus from the dead would raise him
- d. He believed that the worship of God was worth whatever it cost
- e. He believed that God's people were worthy of his sacrifice
- f. He did suffer on the outside, his outer man, his body but Paul was growing and being renewed every day on the inside
- g. We worry too much about the outside and not enough about the inside

5. Problems work for us **17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, *worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;***
- a. Paul's problems caused him to draw closer to the Lord  
**I Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**
  - b. They made him realize he couldn't trust himself or any one but the Lord Jesus
  - c. Though his physical body might suffer it was temporary anyway
  - d. All of his troubles were temporary ones.
  - e. Each hurt, pain, problem drove him closer and closer to the Lord causing him to grow spiritually
6. It only works if you get the right perspective **18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; **but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.****

- a. Our problem is that we see the temporary and count it as important and eternal
- b. We see today's problems as having a long term hurt when God seems them as temporary and a tool to take me on to maturity
- c. We are being called to focus on what has real value
- d. Where is your focus? What do I value most? What things count?

## 7. Practical application to take home this very day

- a. Decide that there is no price too high to pay for the Lord Jesus
  - i. This will make faithfulness a moot point
  - ii. This will mean that my money, time, talents etc. Are really not mine now
- b. Realize that the people of God are worth your living a life of sacrifice
- c. Consider that opposition simply proves that Satan would hinder the work of God
- d. Be willing to speak up for the Lord Jesus
- e. Really believe that there is victory in Jesus and serving Him is worth it



- f. Get strength everyday from the Lord to serve Him
- g. Focus on things of real value
- h. Realize that every problem is God approved and will work for us