

Redounding to the Glory of God

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2 Corinthians 4:15-16 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

- I. For all things are for your sakes ...
 - A. Paul is speaking of all the things that had happened to him, and says they were for the sake of others.
 - B. This is true in all of our lives.
 - C. This is one of the most amazing things about the works of God – that they are always designed to benefit the whole instead of just one individual.
 - D. Even those things that are especially “ours” from God; those special little things that seem to be only for us, even they end up being the means of blessing someone else.
 1. Sometimes they turn out to be the means of bringing someone to Christ.
 2. Sometimes they are the means of strengthening some Christian when the water has went over their head.

- II. That the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
 - A. Allowing us to go through trials and tribulation is the most effective way for God to use us to manifest his grace before this lost and darkened world.
 1. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. (v. 12)
 - B. There is no other way for others to actually see what God can do for a person than to see their soul calm and comforted in extraordinary and difficult circumstances.
 - C. Unless a person sees another truly comforted by God in such suffering they live their life out thinking that the blessings of God are only physical comfort, ease, and gratification.
 - D. The word “redound” means to super abound, to be more than enough, to be in excess.
 1. This is exactly what happens when those who do not know God, or those who think they do, but it profession only, see a person shine in the midst of a severe trial.
 2. When they are aware that the trial is something humanly unbearable, there is only one answer, and that is that God helps and does something for them – this is the grace of God.

- III. For which cause we faint not ...
 - A. The true children of God simply survive every trial and every fall.
 - B. Sometimes we may think we are going to faint, but it just doesn’t happen – help arrives just in time, every time.
 - C. Sometimes it may look like we have failed, and all the evidence at the time seems to prove that we have failed, but the story is not over yet.
 - D. We find in our weakness the very strength of God himself as He comes to our aid.

- IV. Though our outward man perish...
 - A. Though the body gets weaker and we feel our physical strength fading away.
 - B. This is the experience of every person – the body eventually begins to fail them.
 - C. The outward man is dying from the day he is born and it is like a train going downhill with no brakes – it cannot be stopped.
 - D. We struggle more and more as we get older to keep up the pace in this earthly journey.

- V. Yet the inward man is renewed day by day.
 - A. For the saved person the inward man is strengthened with age – not weakened like the body.
 - B. This is the experience of every saved person.
 - 1. Their soul grows stronger and more secure in Christ.
 - 2. Their soul looks up and longs more and more for its true and eternal home.
 - C. The soul matures similar to the way a child matures into an adult.
 - 1. He puts away childish things and stops thinking like a child.
 - 2. The inward man slowly, day by day, changes his thoughts of reality from earthly themes to heavenly themes.
 - D. The cords that bind us to earth are slowly cut one by one and as they are our soul strains upward.
 - E. Finally, the body can hold us no more and it “gives up the ghost” and our matured soul flies away to its heavenly home and the body returns to the dust from whence it came.
 - 1. It is sown in weakness, but raised in power.
 - F. Paul said the same thing again to the Philippians:

Philippians 1:12-14 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.