

**THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD’S ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE -  
to Fortify You to ENDURE HARDSHIP in being FAITHFUL Now &  
REWARDED Later by Jesus Christ.  
(2 Cor. 4:8-16)**

**D. GOD’S ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE IS SUFFICIENT to Fortify You to ENDURE HARDSHIP in being FAITHFUL now & REWARDED later by Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:8-15)**

- **Consider Hebrews 12:1-2** What is “the race that is set before us”?
  - The *examples* you need to *observe*. (12:1a) “Therefore ...” Who are these “witnesses”?
  - The *encumbrances* you need to *lay aside*. (12:1b) ... “let us lay aside ...” What 2 things?
  - The *exhortations* you need to *heed*. (12:1c-2a) “let us run ... looking unto Jesus” What are they?
  - The *Example* you need to consider. (12:2c-3) ... “who for the joy” Who & what is it?
- **The Scriptural Doctrine of Perseverance: The perseverance of believers in Christ ...**
  - 1) Is NOT the same as \_\_\_\_\_. (John 3:16, 10:27-30)
  - 2) Is \_\_\_\_\_ for every believer. (1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:3, 10, 4:5)
  - 3) Is \_\_\_\_\_ by responding by faith & not reacting after the flesh in \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom. 5:2-4; James 1:2-4)
  - 4) Is \_\_\_\_\_ for faithfulness by Jesus Christ at the Bema. (James 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)
  - 5) Is \_\_\_\_\_ though their eternal salvation is. (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 3:11-15)
- **What was Paul’s *outlook* while enduring many *obstacles* in running the race in serving Jesus Christ & others? (4:8-11)**

<u>Paul’s Obstacles</u>	<u>Paul’s Outlook</u>
We are hard pressed on every side,	yet _____;
we are perplexed,	but _____;
persecuted,	but _____;
struck down,	but _____ --

**Principle to remember: You need to anticipate many \_\_\_\_\_ to overcome in faithfully fulfilling God’s plan & the ministry He has for you & \_\_\_\_\_ will determine \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **What can you learn from 4:7-12? Understanding God’s grace & perspective allows you to ...**
  - 1) Be \_\_\_\_\_ about yourself while being \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_. (4:7b)
  - 2) Be \_\_\_\_\_ obstacles in running the race & be \_\_\_\_\_ when they come. (4:8- 9)

3) Be \_\_\_\_\_ about your \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (4:8-9)

4) Be AWARE of the \_\_\_\_\_ that your trials & hardships are used by God to work  
\_\_\_\_\_ IN YOU while resulting in \_\_\_\_\_ FOR OTHERS. (4:10-12) *always carrying about*  
*in the body the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus, that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus also may be \_\_\_\_\_* {to  
make visible, clear, revealed} *in our body. 11 For we who live are always \_\_\_\_\_*  
*{handed over} for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_* {hina - introduces a purpose clause} *the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus*  
*also may be \_\_\_\_\_ in our mortal flesh. 12 So then \_\_\_\_\_ is working \_\_\_\_\_ us, but*  
*\_\_\_\_\_* {is working} \_\_\_\_\_ *you*. What does this mean?

- **Do these hardships & sufferings for Christ throttle Paul back from boldly proclaiming the Gospel? (4:13-14) \_\_\_\_\_!** *And since we have the same spirit* {attitude} *of faith, according to what is written,* {quoting Psalm 116:10} *"I believed and therefore I spoke," we also \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore \_\_\_\_\_* {proclaiming the Gospel with boldness in the face of hostility & Satanic opposition - why do you do this?}, *14 \_\_\_\_\_* {going by scriptural facts encouraging biblical hope, not fluctuating feelings} *that* {Fact #1} *He who raised up the Lord Jesus* {namely, God the Father via the power of the Holy Spirit} {Promise #1} *will also raise us up with Jesus* {1 Cor. 15; 1Thess. 4:16-17}, *and* {Promise #2} *will present us with you* {before the Lord}. How does this apply to you & me?
- **So why does Paul endure all this? (4:15)**  
#1: *For all things* {Paul's suffering & proclaiming the Gospel} *are for \_\_\_\_\_* {expressing his love for them & desiring their undeserved blessing in doing God's will},  
#2: *that* {God's} \_\_\_\_\_ {underlying all of this ministry & its results}, *having spread through the many* {as people are coming to Christ by faith alone through hearing the Gospel},  
#3: *may cause \_\_\_\_\_* {charis results in charis} *to abound* {to overflow; increase; abound}  
#4: *to the \_\_\_\_\_* {the ultimate bottom-line; 9:8,12}. How does this apply to you?
- **Some closing applications: Considering {"therefore"} the benefits & blessings of enduring sufferings for Christ:**
  - 1) **To every BELIEVER in Christ:**
    - a) **"we do \_\_\_\_\_"** {we do not quit; we do not give into discouragement; we do not lose courage. In other words, we find hope and encouragement to keep on keeping on! (4:16a) Will you endure hardships for Jesus Christ & others & finish the race God has for you? {Acts 20:24}
    - b) **What's needed to maintain this eternal perspective? "Even though our outward man** {our mortal bodies} **is perishing** {present, passive, indicative - that's a scriptural fact that is happening to us due to persecution & The Curse - Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12}, **yet the inward man** {in our inner person} **is \_\_\_\_\_** {present, passive, indicative of anakainotai - through mental occupation with Jesus Christ via the WOG - 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10 - this is where the battle lies - in your thinking} **day by day** {Ps. 1:1-3} What is the key to finishing well your race & being rewarded? {2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 12:1-2}
  - 2) **To those who are yet WITHOUT CHRIST as Savior:** Salvation from Hell and possessing eternal life right now are NOT a reward for the righteous {as there are none} but a free gift for the guilty which is offered to you in love by God, paid in full by Jesus Christ, and received by your child-like \_\_\_\_\_ alone in \_\_\_\_\_ alone apart from your good works or religious rituals. Have you ever personally received this? If not, why not right now?

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:8-16

Key Terms: Endurance, Hardship, Faithful, Rewards