

## Hurting, but Hopeful 2 Cor. 4:6 – 5:9

Life doesn't always go well and we aren't always so happy. Life can be downright difficult !

### I. Start with the Good News.

- A. Each Christian is a miracle. The Light has come to You. God has turned the light on. We had a taste of the light of the glory of God. Moses saw a portion of the glory of God.
- B. We also are changed from glory to glory, from one meeting with God, to another.
  - 1. 2Co 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
  - 2. Job talked to God rather openly and rudely and God did not mind. You have entered into a relationship with the Lord and can have REAL PRAYER – heart sharing with God.

### II. We are Jars of Clay (4:7)

- A. 4:7 – there is a tension between clay pots and a valuable treasure.
- B. Purpose of being ordinary is so the unbelieving have hope.
- C. Superstars are admired, but not replicated. (Superman, Michael Jordan)
  - 1. Wouldn't be nice to be superman like when we become Christians?
  - 2. When the unbelieving see someone in a difficult situation going through it with supernatural grace, they say "WOW! What a God!" With a superstar they saw, WOW, what a great guy!

### III. Ordinary Life with God. (4:8,9)

- A. 4:8 - We are hard pressed on every side - This is MOST of us
  - 1. perplexed... don't have all the answers (Saloma)
- B. 4:9 -- persecuted, struck down -- it is normal for Christians to get hurt, but we are not left alone and abandoned, and not destroyed.

### IV. Witness out of reality (4:10-14)

- A. 4:10-12, Others see Jesus when we suffer. When we go through difficulties it spreads the grace of God around so others can see.
- B. 4:13,14, When all goes wrong, we can trust Him because of the resurrection
  - 1. We need to know the one who raised Jesus from the Dead will also come through for us
- C. So we witness (v.13), I believed, therefore I speak...
- D. 4:15 -- more people is the goal, so that thanksgiving is given to God and God receives the glory.

### V. A Life of Hurting Hope

- A. 4:16 -- outwardly we are wasting away,
  - 1. We are all wearing out through life.
  - 2. Yet God is committed to day by day repairs as we need it, like changing the oil (light came on in my truck), or a new alternator, don't need a whole new car, but does need some work.
- B. 4:17 - We all have troubles... things go wrong, but there is a glory that far outweighs them
- C. 5:4 -- We groan and are burdened
  - 1. Rev. 2:8-11, church of Smyrna was in pain, suffering persecution
- D. 5:5 - HS is given as a deposit (like an engagement ring)

### VI. What shall we do?

- A. 4:17-18, Get focused: see our troubles achieving for us an eternal weight of glory that far outshines our troubles.
  - 1. Fixing our eyes on not what is seen, but unseen and eternal.
- B. Don't Lose heart (4:16,5:6,8)
  - 1. We have a good reason to hang in there
- C. We live by faith and not by sight.
  - 1. Don't build your heaven here! Don't make your treasure here, or your heart will be here as well.
    - a) Mt 6:21 For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.
- D. 5:9 - Make it your aim (ambition) to please Him.

1. What is your ambition? Your goal? Your aim?
  - a) Ambition can bring to mind various names in business, sports, etc.
  - b) Greek word is a combination of love and honor, it literally means to make a loving friend of honor or respect, so AMBITION is what you desire other people to love you for.
  - c) What is it about your life that you want others to love?
    - (1) Money, fame, success, victories, kindness, integrity?
    - (2) What really motivates you?
2. A believer should have only ONE ambition... pleasing Jesus. When all else is stripped away, this should be the thing that really matters. . . striving to hear "Well done"
3. Do a one minute ambition evaluation.
  - a) Write down the first thought that comes to mind when you hear the question, "What is the single driving passion of your life" and compare it with Paul's.
  - b) What in your life will you need to change to receive the "well done" verdict from Jesus. If your Top of the Mind motivator is to please Him, the answer will be YES!, if not it is time to readjust priorities, goals, and fall in love with Jesus once again.
  - c) Rev. 2:4, Ephesian church had lost their first love.