

Resurrection Life

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: MAY 1, 2022

Suffering and Influence 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Review

2 Cor. 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The power of the gospel stands in stark contrast with our human frailty.

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

1. Our treasure is the indwelt, relational knowledge of God's glory seen in Jesus.

2 Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2. Only the pure gospel holds the power to save.

2 Cor. 2:17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

1 Cor. 2:1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

God uses our frailty/suffering to reveal His power.

2 Cor. 4:8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

1. We embrace suffering and persecution because in it we experience Christ's power.

2 Cor. 12:8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2. Our suffering and persecution produce humility and dependence.

2 Cor. 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

The very "death" and "life" of Jesus continue in those experiencing persecution.

2 Cor. 4:10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **11** For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

1. We are "given over to death" on Jesus' account to further reveal the power of the new covenant.

Mark 9:31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

2. This suffering pleases the Father and reveals the Son's power.

2 Cor. 2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, **16** to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

When we suffer on Jesus' behalf, others are influenced by His life.

2 Cor. 4:12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Reflection & Discussion

1. In what area of your life would like to see increased boldness for the gospel? Do these truths produce confidence to proclaim the gospel – even at the risk of personal suffering?
2. Looking back over this series (2 Cor. 2:14-4:12), what is the source of Paul's confidence in his service to Jesus? List out 2-3 personal statements drawn from these verses that will help to produce the same boldness in your life.
3. How does this section help form your biblical worldview with regards to suffering/persecution?

SONGS

"FOUND IN YOU" - Paul Baloche and Andi Rozier

"HALLELUJAH FOR THE CROSS" - Ben Glover, Chris McClarney, and Jeff Pardo

"YOUR GLORY" - Leslie Jordan

"O PRAISE THE NAME (ANASTASIS)" - Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, and Benjamin Hastings

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 46,696.86

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$570,217.33

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$613,581.00