

LOVE  
&  
AUTHORITY  
2 CORINTHIANS



## Sermon Series Notes

### "How To Not Lose Heart In Life" (II Corinthians 4)

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Intro: The "therefore" of v.1 links what Paul is about to say with what he has said regarding the new covenant (ch.3). As we saw last week, the new covenant is a covenant of grace, it brings righteousness by faith, is increasingly glorious, and frees us from the bondage of the law. Paul begins and ends this chapter with the same statement "Therefore we do not lose heart." Sandwiched between these two statements is a man who has suffered for the message of the gospel like few in history. And here the Holy Spirit is about to use this man to tell us how to make it through suffering without losing heart. I don't know about you, but I'm all ears.

#### I. A MINISTRY THAT'S NOT ABOUT ME (vv. 1-6)

\* v.2 We don't use gimmicks, deception, and we don't distort the Word in order to be successful. We just preach the truth.

\* v.5a We do not preach ourselves!

\* v.5b We realize Jesus is Lord, and we are His servants

\* Prov.16: 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

\* Samson, King Saul, Moses. Uzziah (II Chron.26)

\* Sin of Sodom Arrogant, overfed and unconcerned (Ezekiel 16:49)

\* Original sin? Isa.14: 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

\* God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. And if God is opposing you, it's only a matter of time before you will lose heart.

\* One of the great ironies of the Christian life is that once I lose my life for Christ, I find life. It's not about me any longer, but about Him.

\* Phil.3: 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ

Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

## II. A MINISTRY THAT INVOLVES SUFFERING (vv.7-12)

### A. Paul's Sufferings

1. Hard pressed (on every side), but not crushed
  - Feeling as if there is no place to run, no place to find rest
2. Perplexed, but not in despair
  - To be at a loss mentally; to stand in doubt.
  - Illus: King s friend in Africa, That s good!
3. Persecuted, but not abandoned
  - To follow after; press toward (maybe hounded )
4. Struck down, but not destroyed
  - This is being thrown down to the ground

### B. Why We Should Not Be Surprised By Suffering

#### 1. Suffering Was Promised To Us

\* Acts 9: 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

\* Rom.8: 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

\* Luke 9: 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

\* II Tim.3: 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

#### 2. Suffering Is The Path To Power

\* See II Cor.12:7-10

#### 3. Suffering Is The Path To Fellowship With Christ

\* Phil.3: 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

\* Bible Trivia: Name a great man/woman of God in the Scriptures (or history) that had an easy life.

## III. THE HOPE OF RESURRECTION (vv.13-15)

\* I keep on speaking, I keep on sharing, I keep on believing, despite the suffering, because I have the glorious hope of resurrection!

## IV. DAILY RENEWAL (vv.16-18)

#### A. An Eternal Perspective (v.17)

- Rom.8: 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- I Cor.15: 31 I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

- Rom.8:28

- Story of king in Africa

#### B. An Eternal Fixation (v.18)

- Heb.11: 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was **looking ahead** to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

- 578. apoblepo, ap-ob-lep'-o; from G575 and G991; to look away from everything else, i.e. (fig.) intently regard:--have respect.

- I think about heaven every day. It helps me to keep my value system correct.

- Matt.6: 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- I Peter 1: 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy

- Heb.2: 8 In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. 9 But we see Jesus

- Col.3:1-2

- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of God. I need daily bread from God's Word to maintain a heavenly perspective, so that I will not lose heart.

- Joseph had a dream from God, but between the dream and fulfillment of the dream, there was a tough road (Gen.37, 39-45)

- Daniel 6:1-5, 10

- Years before as God was moving Daniel up the leadership ladder in the government of Babylon, his three friends faced a trial of their own (see Daniel 3).

- See II Kings 6:8-17; Heb.1:14; Matthew 4: 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- Heb.11:1-3, 7a, 8-10, 13

#### CONCLUSION

\* Don't lose heart. Humble yourself, embrace suffering in the will of God, look forward to the glorious hope of resurrection, and be renewed by keeping your eyes fixed on the unseen realities that are eternal.