

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL, MORE SONGS FROM THE HEART, TRUTH ON TRIAL

N.T. Study - Stewards Of The Gospel - *With Eternity In Mind* - June 3, 2018

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Intro: Today we look at Paul's encouragement of the church in Corinth to not lose heart and persevere in spite of difficult times. Our text is in 2 Cor.4, but I want to start by looking at 2 Cor.2:14. In this verse, Paul states 3 reasons for his conquering faith. Paul was sure that God was L_____ him (2:14a), Paul was sure that God was leading him in T_____ (2:14b), and Paul was sure that God was U_____ him as He was leading him (2:14c). Just like Paul, we also need to live with the attitude that we can P_____ in living for and serving God, knowing that glory awaits us in Heaven. Our circumstances in life should not cause us to become discouraged in our service to Christ!

I. (2 Cor.4:1-6) The Honest Nature of Paul's Ministry

1. (4:1-2) Three things Paul says about his ministry:

A. Paul received his ministry by the _____ of God; therefore Paul does not lose _____!

B. Paul had renounced _____!

C. Paul commended himself because of his O_____ statement of T_____!

2. (4:1-6) It was Paul's purpose to be H_____. (4:2)

It was Paul's purpose to serve the T_____. (4:3-5)

It was Paul's purpose to speak to be U_____. (4:3-4)

It was Paul's purpose to preach C_____. (4:5-6)

We should point people to Christ with H_____, while living and S_____ the truth of God's word. Like Paul, we are S_____ of Christ pointing people to Christ with I_____.

II. (2 Cor.4:7-12) The Suffering Nature of Paul's Ministry

1. (4:7) What words come to mind when you describe "jars of clay"? How do those jars represent us?

Why did God put such a treasure in the jars of clay?

2. (4:8-9) Examples of overcoming suffering:

Afflicted/hard pressed/pressured/troubled but not _____!

Perplexed but not _____!

Persecuted but not _____!

Struck down but not _____!

* God P_____ trials. God C_____ trials. God U_____ trials for His glory!

3. (4:10-12) "Dying" for Jesus gave Paul the opportunity to demonstrate the L_____ of Jesus, which in turn B_____ the life of others!

III. (2 Cor.4:13-18) Paul's Perspective Of His Ministry

1. (4:13-14) What was Paul's response to his belief?

What was the Psalmist's response to his belief in Psa. 116:10-19

2. (4:15) What was Paul's desire here?

3. (4:16) Why is Paul not discouraged?

4. (4:17) Why does Paul call our present affliction light and momentary?

5. (4:18) Where should our focus be? (see also Heb. 11:10, 13-14, 27)

* Keep serving the Lord, viewing life from an E_____ perspective!

Text for 6/10/18: 2 Cor.5:1-21 *Great Expectations*