

## **Summer Topical Series - #2**

### **Seasonal Difficulties - II Cor.4:7-18; Rev.22:20-21**

#### 0.0 Introduction

On the request for text and topic that prompted this sermon – then and now

#### 1.0 The Metaphor and the Man

1.1 Treasure in earthen vessels (v.7): in antiquity, to store/hide coins in clay jars ('hoard'):  
huge disparity between *contents* and *container*

1.2 Application of metaphor: *contents* = glory of Christ as image of God (v.4), while  
*container* = mortal body & self // disposable pottery vessel (*ostrakinos*)

#### 2.0 The Match and the Mismatch

2.1 Disparity of values contrasts God's supreme power vs. limited human strength (v.7b)

2.2 The mortal experiences of apostolic ministry (vv.8-10): a dangerous place to operate

2.3 First disparity: Paul's constant near-death experience (v.11) vs. life of Jesus

2.4 Second disparity: Paul's pending mortality extends hope of life in others (v.12)

2.5 Third disparity: body diminishes yet spirit being renewed (vv.16-17)

#### 3.0 The Means & the Method

3.1 With so much upside down right now, we are feeling this deeply!

3.2 Difficulty (of any kind) a vital avenue of personal growth (v.17 // I Pet.1:6-7)

3.3 Hard suffering tends to lead toward stability and maturity: Calvin & Spurgeon on this

*Next week (July 19) – Summer Topical Series - #3  
Season of Anxiety – Matt.6:25-34*

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

<sup>13</sup> It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."<sup>[a]</sup> Since we have that same spirit of<sup>[b]</sup> faith, we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup> because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. <sup>15</sup> All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

### Footnotes:

1. 2 Corinthians 4:13 Psalm 116:10 (see Septuagint)
2. 2 Corinthians 4:13 Or *Spirit-given*

## Revelation 22:20-21 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.