

⁶ *For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," (Gen1:3) is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

⁷ *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, (WHY) so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;*

¹⁰ *always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, (WHY) so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

¹¹ *For (BECAUSE OF THAT) we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, (WHY) so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

¹² *So (CONCLUSION) death works in us, but life in you.*

4:13-15 (NASB)

13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

14 knowing (WHAT DO WE KNOW?) that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

15 For all things are for your sakes, (WHY)so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

¹⁶ (**CONCLUSION**) *Therefore we do not lose heart, (WHY?) but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

It is not that we believers become more qualified for taking part of the inheritance of the saints in light, our inheritance rests on Christ and His redemptive work

- **However, there is growth spiritually in the inner man,**
- **There is a new nature**
- **There is sure conviction of things around us**
- **Gradually we see less value for what once attracted us**
- **There is a more undivided deepening joy in the Lord and His objects here as well as in heavenly things.**

What has been God's purpose all along?

He is working out everything to serve His supreme purpose **in displaying the character of His Son in His redeemed ones.**

If we don't have trials, we don't have victories and if we don't have victories, there is really no growing acquaintance with The Lord Jesus; and where there is not this growth, however great the intelligence or sincerity, there is little or no flavor or aroma.

It is the trials and difficulties of the way that are the opportunities for **our hearts to grow in personal intimacy with Him.**

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be *dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:11

It must be, "always *bearing about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body*".

2 Corinthians 4:10

- The clay vessel, the old man, wants to be linked with this world,
- The new inner Man and the Spirit are linked with the new world
- Now man puts all the glory into the vessel, but the vessel is made nothing of (*though our outer man is decaying*) – the vessel goes through the process of annihilation, and then he finds the result.

*17 For **momentary**, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,*

The afflictions we and Paul experience are not only light but also only "*for a **moment**.*"

In Paul's case it lasted

- From the days shortly after his conversion
- Lightness of affliction! in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in death often.
- To the day when he suffered martyrdom:
- **a period covering thirty years or more.**

Why for a moment?

Because Paul's mind is set on an eternity of glory.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison

“This is so true that Paul does not hesitate to designate so devastating and ruthless a storm of trial, ever repeating itself in fresh blows and continual grief, as *"the momentary lightness of our affliction."*

STONEY

Lightness of affliction!
In stripes above measure,
In prisons more frequent,
In death often.

*¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an **eternal weight** of glory far **beyond all comparison***

Eternal weight metaphorically describes the future state of believers as "an eternal weight of glory"

Vines

Denotes "expressed greatness,"

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NASB)

*⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the **surpassing greatness of the power** will be of God and not from ourselves;*

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NASB)

*⁷ Because of the **surpassing greatness of the revelations**, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!*



momentary, light affliction



eternal weight of glory

¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Distinguish between

- The carnal mind, and
- That nature which God at the beginning gave man at creation.

Example: my eye is nature, and is given me to be used

- But **how am I going to use my eyesight? Is it for Christ?**
- Christ is Head of the new creation. He is also Creator of the old.
- *Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body",*
[1 Corinthians 6:20](#)
- **the whole point is not, a thing good, but, is it Christ? It is to be**
- *"Not I, but Christ lives in me".* ([Galatians 2:20](#))

*¹⁸ while we **look** not at the things which are **seen**, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are **seen** are **temporal**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.*

Do we fix our eyes on visible or invisible things?

- The answer is obvious. We focus on the sense world.
- One of the things we can see “*our outer man is decaying*”
- We should make a list of the things we see today that will pass away

The “**look**” of which he speaks is, of course, **the look of faith**.

- Paul was passing through the scenes and circumstances of earth, yet he was **not looking** at them.
- He was **looking** at the eternal things, which are not visible to mortal eyes.
- If, like Paul, we had our eyes upon Christ, upon resurrection, upon glory, we should be upheld by divine power and inwardly be renewed day by day.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
*18 while **we look not** at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Verse 18 tells us that verse 17 is not automatic “*While (provided that) we look not*”

- Deliverance from the temporal seen things is true power
- Christ makes good this mighty work in those who believe
- How then must we Believers appreciate the gospel of His glory?

¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Stoney

The sure mark that you have been enjoying Christ in glory is that then He exclusively engrossed your attention, and as you are here for Him, everything that concerns Him claims your overriding attention.

DARBY

Thus I am going to behold and manifest all the glory, and this practically acts to perfect the man *while he is not looking at the things which are seen, but at the things that are not seen.*