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Paul's View on Thanksgiving, Part 4

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II Corinthians 4:13-18 ¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because 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. ¹⁵All 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. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So 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. (NIV)

Psalms 116:9-10 ⁹I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁰I believed, therefore I said, "I am greatly afflicted." (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** It begins with a quote from Psalm 116 that refers to a faith that is not based upon **circumstance** but on who our God is! V. 13
- B.** Our faith is based upon the historical fact of the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ. V.14
- C.** God wants to produce Thanksgiving in us through us receiving and giving the **grace of God**. V. 15
- D.** The daily renewal that comes through grace produces a **courageous** heart. V.16
- E.** We have an **eternal** glory awaiting us that dwarfs our current troubles. V.17
- F.** Our **focus** should never be on our trials but on God. V.18

II. What can we learn from this?

- A.** We must **evaluate** what we are putting our faith in. It is not in money or science; it is in our Living God!
- B.** We must live in light of the **reality** of Jesus Christ.
- C.** Grace has got to be on our mind **daily**. This grace should be given to ourselves, to others, and even to God Himself.
- D.** The **big picture** of what God is doing needs to supersede what we would will to happen.
- E.** We need to have the faith to say verse 17 and to **mean** it!