

The Treasure

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II Corinthians 4:7-18 ⁷Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always consigned to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ¹³And in keeping with what is written: "I believed, therefore I have spoken," we who have the same spirit of faith also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in His presence. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is extending to more and more people may overflow in thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** The great power of the **Gospel** of Jesus Christ is compared to treasure and our earthly body is compared to jars of clay. V. 7
- B.** We go through hard times, but the power of **resurrection** is within us. V. 8-10
- C.** Our mortal body cannot be saved, but our message of Jesus Christ becomes even more powerful when we live out our **faith** in Him. V. 11-12
- D.** We will always speak about what we really **believe**. V. 13-14
- E.** The more people hear of the grace of God, the more that God is **praised**! V. 15
- F.** We receive **encouragement** in our heart because of God's glory being revealed to others. V. 16-17
- G.** We must keep on **task** of seeking the eternal and keep a loose grip on the temporary. V. 16

II. How can we apply this message?

- A.** We must evaluate the **value** that we place upon sharing our story and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.
- B.** We must realize that the power of resurrection is something that should affect us **now**. This is the blessed hope that we have.
- C.** It is important to place as much emphasis on our **soul** as we place upon our body.
- D.** The amount of praise that God **receives** from our life is a sign that we are on task. So, it is helpful to evaluate the praise that God **receives** from our character and our words.
- E.** We must receive the encouragement that God is desiring to **give** us.
- F.** We must not let **anything** or **anyone** get us off the task that He has given us.