

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting will be **TODAY** at 3pm. We are so excited about the start of Camp Jesus tomorrow. 😊 Due to all the camp preparations, we will **not** have Children's ministry or a Formation I teaching today. Please pray for Camp Jesus this week: protection, joy, and encounter for all associated with Camp!
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), [teachings](#), and [Jubilee](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

I suppose it is normal, the older one gets, to be concerned with health and wellness. Attending coordinators meetings in Bobbie's living room for so many years I noticed a shift in the premeeting conversation. As the average age in the room increased, so did the percentage of banter about healthy food and drink, the latest news concerning medications and medical advances. These conversations came to mind as I heard and reflected upon the [Second Reading](#).

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church, he presents this 'Paradox of the Ministry' just prior to today's reading: *"We hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh."*

We often sing of this [hope and promise](#) in the Trading My Sorrows bridge: *"I am pressed but not crushed, persecuted not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed. I am blessed beyond the curse, for His promise will endure, that His joy is gonna be my strength. Though the sorrow may last for the night, His joy comes with the morning."*

Paul's is trying hard to reorient our focus beyond our current afflictions, persecutions, trials...that are manifested in our current mortal bodies toward our true focus...life on high with our Lord and Savior!

He is building up our faith "knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence." He attacks the image of decay pointing to new life: "although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."

I believe his key point is that regardless of whether we are facing the literal decline of our bodies, or the physical and emotional challenges of the world...whatever affliction we face we are to look toward Jesus for our hope: "For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal."

Life is simply one trial after another, this is our fate as humans after the fall. So many fixate on the trials and spend their lives trying to fix and isolate themselves from life's trials... But Paul has a different kind of wisdom for us today. He points to Jesus as our example, that resurrection follows the cross. There is no avoiding the cross, plain and simple. What Paul wants to take away from his letter is that we are all being put to a test, a test to see if we will surrender our lives and will to our Heavenly Father. Will we follow Jesus' example and live each day through the power of His Spirit?

This is what Paul is pleading for. He wants the Corinthian church to look beyond its temporal dying existence and put faith and hope in the eternal glory that awaits. The message for us is the same. The allurements are even more tempting today, which is why we come together as a community to support one another and remind each other that we are not for this world. We are destined for far greater life on high with our Lord and Savior. Let us redouble our efforts to deny ourselves and put our hope and trust and faith in what is not seen.

Let us pray, "Jesus, my Lord and Savior, send me Your Holy Spirit to strengthen my ability to look beyond my affliction and persecution and never despair because of my trust and confidence in Your promises. As You surrendered Your life and will to our Father, I pledge my life and will to our Father. I need Your Holy Spirit to persevere. Please send me a double portion today so that I can be the witness and example that You call me to be. I love You Lord and recommit my life to You. I love You Lord. Amen"

God Bless,

David