

# Call Me Crazy: We Do Not Lose Heart (2Cor4:1-18)

## 1. We Do Not Lose Heart Because We Have \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.1-6)

- A. We have been saved by the grace and mercy of God and are being transformed (3:12-18; 4:3-4,6; 1Jn2:1-2)
- B. Therefore, we have been given a ministry – what ministry? (2Cor5:17-21)
  - 1. We don't change or adulterate/water down the Word of God so people will like us (vs.2)
  - 2. Series issues: life at conception; 2 genders; marriage; think of family...*Eph6:1-4; Col3:18,19*
  - 3. The Gospel: not about you, but about God, we don't change it or people won't be saved!
- C. The World opposes the truth because Satan has blinded them (vs.3,4)
  - 1. Notice! Only God can save them; He uses the preaching of Christ, nothing else! (vs.5,6)
  - 2. Though the world hates us, we don't give up, nor change the Word, we trust God! *\*Rom1:16!*

## 2. We Do Not Lose Heart Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.7-12)

- A. Treasures in \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. earthen vessels, clay pots – were brittle, frail, expendable, used to carry people's refuse
  - 2. Paul's focus is on his/our weakness, so God can display HIS power! *\*2Cor12:9,10*
  - 3. Our sufferings and weaknesses are divinely given so God can display His power for the church and saving the lost! This is God's plan!!! *1Cor1:18-31*
  - 4. Is God looking for wealthy/powerful/professional people? \_\_\_\_\_  
*\*think of Apostles, it's our weakness that gives opportunity for God's power! 1Cor2:3*
- B. But not...How does God help us see our great weaknesses? (Vs.8-9)
  - 1. Affliction, perplexed – wits end; persecuted – hunted down to kill; struck down – body slammed – suffering, sacrifice, illness, difficulties, trials... is the calling on our lives
  - 2. ***What do these things cause us to do???*** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. THEN WE SEE GOD'S SURPASSING GREAT POWER, NOT OUR FEEBLE ABILITIES!
  - 4. *GOD'S power is seen in the BUT NOT'S...*
- C. Death brings life – Why does God do this? (vs.10,12)  
*\*Our suffering, even facing death itself, gives \_\_\_\_\_ for God to display His power to sustain us and use us to build/strengthen/life to the church, and save the lost!*

## 3. We Do Not Lose Heart Because God is Still \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.13-15)

- A. I believe therefore I speak – we KNOW God will save!!! ***\*\*\*2Tim2:8-10***  
*\*Look at verse 15 – the gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ to the glory of God!*
- B. Examples: of God's grace to save

## 4. We Do Not Lose Heart Because \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.16-18)

- A. Therefore we do not lose heart – because of all that God is doing in our sufferings to strengthen the church and save the lost! (vs.16)
- B. Our outer man is decaying, \_\_\_\_\_ away... YET we are being renewed w/in! (*Eccl.12:1-8*)  
*\*Though my body is dying, my spirit is growing stronger every day!*
- C. Eternity is coming! We look/fix our gaze on what is \_\_\_\_\_! (vs.17,18; *Eccl.12:13,14*)  
*\*1Peter4:12-16; Romans8:35-39*