

IRRESISTIBLE

— The Church God Can't Resist —

**An Irresistible Church
Links Everything to a Soul**

2 Corinthians 4:3-18

³ ...If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," 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.

2 Corinthians 4:3-18

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; ⁸ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you

2 Corinthians 4:3-18

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 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, 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 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:3-18

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.

1. This Life is Temporal

- v. 18 – “the things which are seen are temporal”
 - Temporal - temporary, lasting only for a short time.
 - Eternal – lasting an unlimited time.
 - God set eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Seen things are temporary.

Unseen things are eternal.

2. Souls are Eternal

- v. 3 - "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing"
- In eternity, we will never see another non-Christian.
- The only things of this world that will last are people's souls.

People are our legacy.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

² You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

3. God sends us

- To use the temporal to build the eternal.
 - v. 18 – “we focus on the unseen.”
 - The temporal is a tool for the eternal.

**If you focus on the seen,
you get temporal results.
If you focus on the unseen,
you get eternal results.**

3. God sends us

- To establish a Kingdom culture
 - V. 12 – “So death works in us, but life in you.”
 - We are not a subculture; we are the eternal culture.
 - Light, city on a hill, salt.

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next.”

C.S. Lewis

3. God sends us

- To bring the good news
 - v. 15 – “For all things are for your sakes, 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.”
 - We need to change our “have to” into “get to.”

Matthew Henry

“God could have sent angels to make known the glorious doctrine of the gospel, or could have sent the most admired sons of men to teach the nations, but he chose humbler, weaker vessels, that his power might be more glorified in upholding them, and in the blessed change wrought by their ministry.”

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

The Lifesaving Station

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a simple little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, went out day and night tirelessly searching for those who were lost.

Some of those who were saved and various others in the surrounding area wanted to become associated with the station and gave of their time, money, and effort to support

its work. New boats were bought, and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so simple and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully

because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in the club's decorations, and there was a lifeboat hanging from the ceiling in the room where the club's initiations were held.

About this time, a large shipwrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick.

The beautiful new club was in chaos. So, the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club, where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split among the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving

station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station. So, they did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old one. It evolved into a club, some broke off, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore.

Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.

2 Corinthians 4:3

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