

II Corinthians 4 – 10 April 2022

“We Faint Not”

Introduction

- *Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2nd M.T.), made lots of disciples
 - *Some of them needed lots of growth & help
- *Theme of Book: The life of the minister: temporary pain & eternal gain
 - *Chap 1 – ‘thriving in the fire’ -depending on H.S.
 - *Chap 2 – guiding others toward freedom in Christ
 - *Chap 3 – privileges of being in the New Covenant
- *Now Chap 4 - why we faint not in presenting Gospel
- *Chap 1 inward & Chap 4 outward –
 - *Chap 1 was an encouraging look *inward* at we can be rejuvenated thru the trials of life
 - *Now Chap 4 is a very *outward* look at why ministering the Gospel to others is worth it
- *I’ve had lots of hobbies I’ve given up on, what’s different about having the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- *So let’s look at 3 reasons why “we faint not” in presenting the life-giving Gospel to others**

1st reason we faint not is b/c God's Word is true & consequential (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. What is “this ministry”?
 - a. Offering the merciful New Covenant that has been proven, preeminent & profitable
 - b. We're motivated to give to others b/c we know the value of the Gospel in our own lives
2. We're just trying to be witnesses of the mercy God has given us

Read Vs 2

1. We don't attempt to trick people into believing the Gospel, but rather ask their conscience to validate that what we're saying is the truth of God
2. Anything I can talk you into, another can talk you out of
 - a. Don't need my persuasion, need the truth

Read Vs 3-4

1. We present honest things, Satan presents lies
 - a. John 8:44: Satan aka father of lies (source)

2. Why's Satan known as the god of this world?
 - a. B/c Adam & Eve forfeited it over to him
 - b. Rev 5 shows Jesus won it back!
 - c. Eph 6:12 says for now, Satan runs the “rulers of darkness of this world”
 - d. In John 12:31, Jesus Himself called Satan the prince of this world
 - e. Temptation of Christ, Satan could rightfully offer Jesus the kingdom of this world
3. Satan puts our eyes on the gain of this temporary world & hides the glory of God's eternal kingdom
4. What prevents or aid one toward the Gospel?
 - a. Read John 12:43 – love the praise of men
 - b. Read John 12:36 – believe in the light

Read Vs 5

1. We're not convincing you of our amazingness, but of Jesus Christ's amazingness, whom we serve

Read Vs 6

1. As at creation, God took dark/dead & made light/life
2. The fulfillment of the Gospel is the revelation of God's amazing grace found & seen in Jesus

2nd reason we faint not is b/c our suffering works life into others (Vs 7-12)

Read Vs 7

1. How amazing that this great treasure of having knowledge of the Gospel could be held by us in these temporary bodies
2. This points to God's greatness and not our own

Read Vs 8-9

1. There is lots of trouble, but it's manageable b/c we know of its scope & limit
 - a. Notice vs 8 – There is a mental renewing
 - b. And vs 9 – There is a spiritual renewing
2. Luke 18:1 – Ought always to pray & not to faint
 - a. We offer all we have & God brings results
 - b. God will avenge our suffering in the end
3. No point in having anything left at end of life
 - a. Story: like using monopoly money
 - i. Use it for the adventure
 - ii. Benefit in real life is that how we “play the game” translates into real rewards later

Read Vs 10-11

1. John 15:18 – Jesus said that the world will hate us b/c it hated Him
2. There's physical element to the world hating us
3. We're crucified w/ Christ & now live for Him
4. As we're willingly giving our physical strength & body for the work of the Gospel, it helps people see Christ in us and not us in us

Read Vs 12

1. Phil 2:17 Paul talks of his very life being poured out like a drink offering
 - a. It's being poured into them for their help!
2. Gal 6:9 says “don't be weary in well-doing, we'll reap if we faint not”
 - a. We'll reap eternal rewards for ourselves
 - b. But we'll also reap glory to God as souls are saved and brought into the Kingdom

3rd reason we faint not is b/c God is working eternally valuable things (Vs 13-18)

Read Vs 13

1. Just as the Psalmist said, our belief is the hinge on which the door of our life swings us
2. Our identity isn't found in temporary things like our location or good looks
 - a. Our identity is found in our beliefs
 - b. When our beliefs are ground in true things, there's an eternal benefit

Read Vs 14

1. We can endure all the stresses if we know & believe that God will raise us all in the end
2. Not just enduring, but great quality of enduring

Read Vs 15

1. The more people believe, the more glory abounds toward God
2. Read Eph 3:13 – My tribulations are your glory

Read Vs 16

1. We faint not b/c it's renewing us, helping others and glorifying God
2. Story: Military Basic Training - sock rolling
 - a. Seemed tedious & meaningless
 - b. But was working in us lasting lessons
3. Our bodies may be being used up fully but our spirit within is getting better with each passing day

Read Vs 17

1. The giving of new life to others by God is the “eternal weight of glory”
2. We sacrifice our temporary bodily strength and energy to bring others to Christ

Read Vs 18

1. Heb 11:1 – It's a walk of faith
2. We live for the eternal, as of yet unseen, world
3. Look at just this creation, let alone eternity
 - a. Lot more of earth w/o you, than w/ you
 - b. Don't put your effort into this short life

Conclusion

So is your Christianity just some hobby that you're trying out to see if you like it? Or is there value there that makes you push thru the difficult moments? We faint not b/c...

- 1. God's Word is true & consequential**
 - a. We hold the truth of God, life, death, and our eternity – this is as meaningful as it gets!
 - b. Don't need to trick or convince people, but like a lion just let the Gospel loose
- 2. Our suffering works life into others**
 - a. No point in trying to take the monopoly money of this life w/ you to heaven – you can't
 - b. Lay it on the line to help others come to what you have
- 3. God is working eternally valuable things**
 - a. We are going into eternity – bring a truckload of glory to God when you arrive
 - b. Read Heb 12:3 – Jesus had been thru what we go thru – look to Jesus (Author & Finisher)