

A dramatic landscape featuring a large, dark cross standing on a rocky cliff on the right side. In the foreground, a person is running on a sandy beach. The background shows a vast ocean under a sky filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a bright light source breaking through the clouds near the horizon. The overall mood is one of struggle and triumph.

TRIUMPH *Through* TROUBLE

2ND CORINTHIANS

II Corinthians 1:8

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life

A man in a light blue t-shirt and dark pants is sitting on a stone ledge, looking out over a vast valley. The sun is setting behind him, creating a warm, orange glow. The background shows rolling hills and a forested valley. A dark red horizontal band is overlaid on the image, containing the title text.

WHY IS LIFE SO HARD?

OVERVIEW OF 2ND CORINTHIANS

Job 5:7

For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward



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Job 14:1

Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil (NASB)

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Important reminder in suffering:

It is the power of God rather than our own strength that allows us to both endure and triumph in the Christian life.

II Corinthians 6:4-5

. . . as ministers of God: in much patience,
in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in
stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in
labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings. . .

II Corinthians 11:23b-27

“ . . . I speak as a fool. . . in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst; in fastings often, in cold and nakedness

II Corinthians 4:7-11

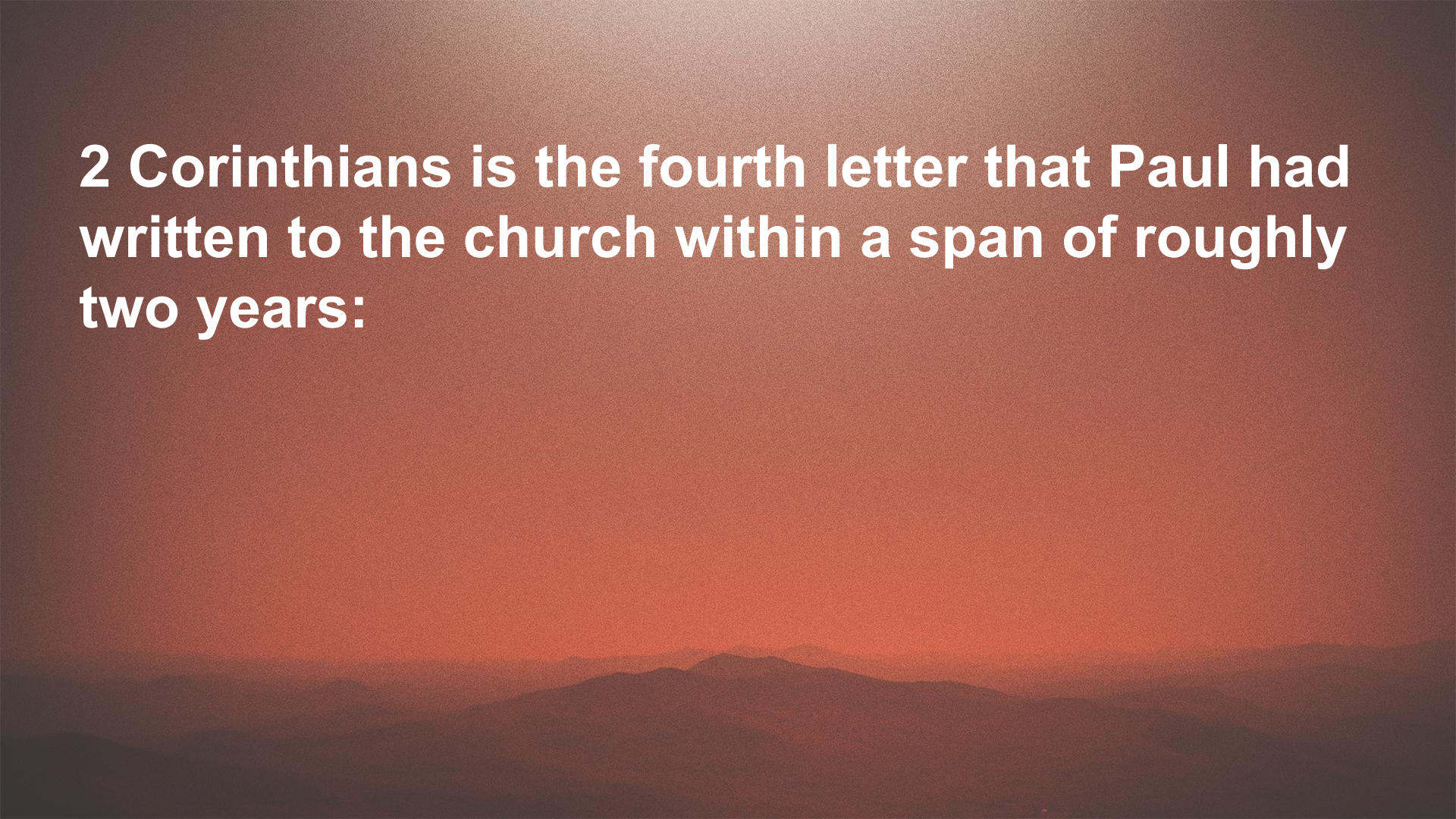
A light affliction, which is but for a moment

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh

2 Corinthians is the fourth letter that Paul had written to the church within a span of roughly two years:

The background of the slide features a landscape of rolling mountains under a dramatic, warm-toned sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange at the horizon to a darker, more muted red and brown at the top. The mountains in the foreground are silhouetted against the bright horizon, creating a sense of depth and tranquility. The overall mood is serene and contemplative, fitting for a religious or historical text.

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- Letter 4: II Corinthians

Overview of II Corinthians



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1. The ministry of reconciliation - chapters 1-7

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 - In Christ we participate in the miracle of reconciliation

II Corinthians 5:14-17

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

Overview of II Corinthians

1. The ministry of reconciliation - chapters 1-7
 - In Christ we participate in the miracle of reconciliation
 - To men we proclaim the message of reconciliation

II Corinthians 5:18, 19, 21

Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

Overview of II Corinthians

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 - In Christ we participate in the miracle of reconciliation
 - To men we proclaim the message of reconciliation
 - For God we perform the ministry of reconciliation

II Corinthians 5:19-20

That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation

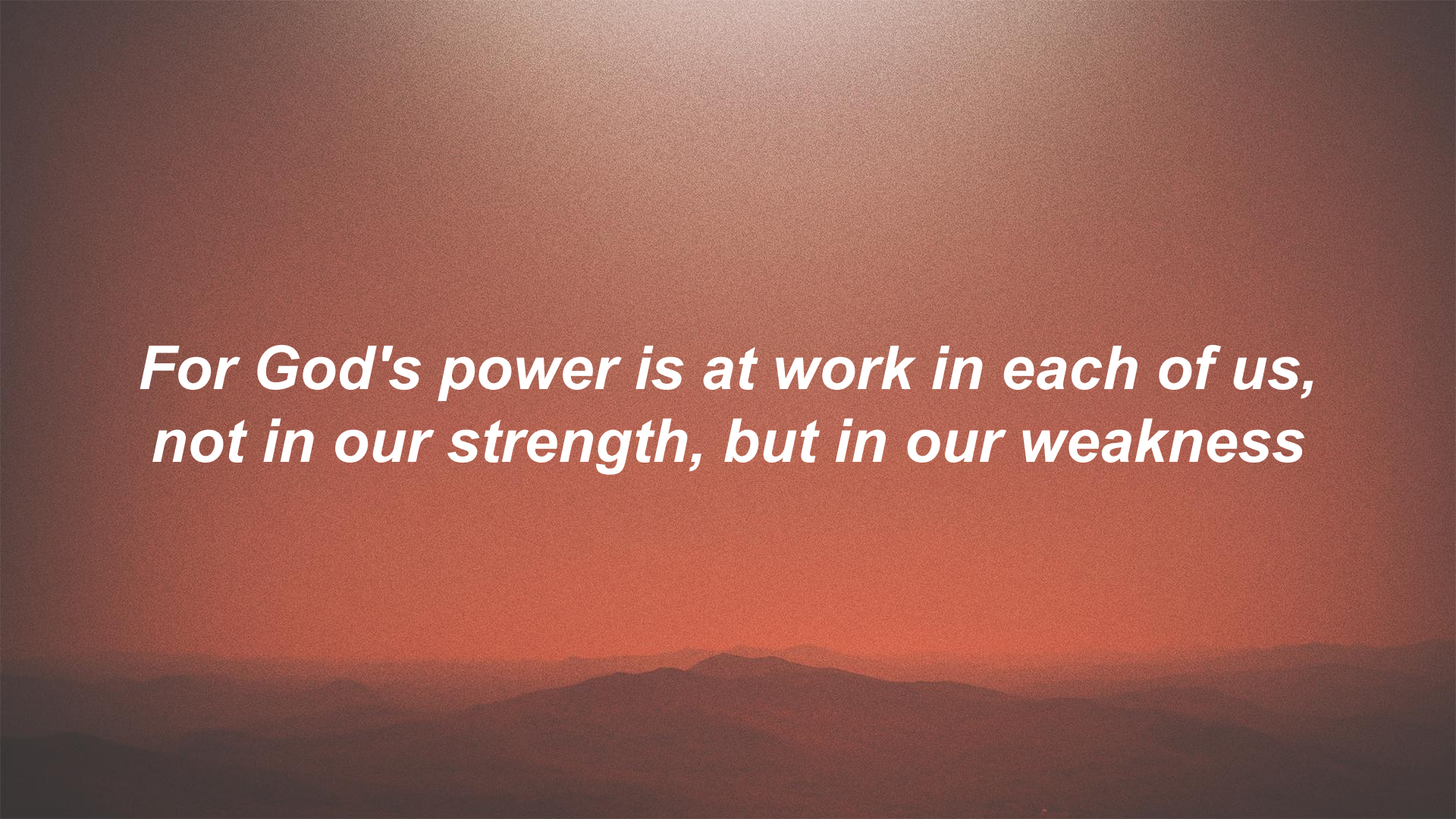
Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God

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1. The ministry of reconciliation - chapters 1-7
2. The self-sacrificial ministry - chapters 8-9
3. The true Apostolic ministry - chapters 10-13



***For God's power is at work in each of us,
not in our strength, but in our weakness***