



Connecting People to **Jesus**

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Monday, August 15, 2022

Pastor Eric Jay

**Prayer:** Father, we thank You for Your love, even Your touch love in our life. We know that our sin often creates difficult circumstances in our life, but we also know that You can use those circumstances to refine us; to bring for the beauty of the salvation that You have put in our hearts for all of eternity. Amen.

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7-17**

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. Since we have the same spirit of faith...we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*

**Devotion – “Wasting Away”**

We have this treasure of God’s salvation and the treasure of God’s Holy Spirit, in this soft and moldable jar of clay that is our humanity. A humanity that the Son of God took upon Himself.

Our Lord was no stranger to suffering. He not only suffered in every way (physically, emotionally, and spiritually), but He was tempted as we are as well. Yet, He was perfectly faithful even to death on the cross. As you read time and again throughout the Passion narrative, despite their best efforts and willingness to do absolutely anything to convict Jesus of a single wrong doing, they couldn’t. The only crime they ultimately could rightfully accuse Jesus of was blasphemy, claiming to be God. No doubt Jesus did very clearly claim to be God, but He also proved it by rising from the dead. Christ’s resurrection was so undeniably certain, that only could His enemies not deny it, but even with the might of Rome behind them, they couldn’t stop the inevitable world-wide and everlasting rise of Christ’s church that He promised would come only after He was risen from the dead.

Why does God allow times of hardship and suffering in our life? Because He loves us! Because He has won salvation for us, and that salvation isn’t just some prize hopefully

waiting for us if we can manage to stay strong to the end. No, the salvation of God is something He wants us to enjoy now, today. And in preparing us for that eternal glory that lies ahead and in daily helping us to experience His glory even now, God lovingly uses the difficult times and sufferings to strip away our outer self and renew the inner self. God uses affliction to remove all of the outside stuff that stands in the way of an ever-deepening relationship with Him on the inside, because only a relationship with the Living God truly satisfies both now and for eternity.

As we look upon the sufferings of our Lord Jesus with the eyes of faith, we see the love of God for the whole world so vividly and undeniably clear, because His love came through the trial and torture of the cross. So too, by God's grace given through the Holy Spirit and through the eyes of faith, when we look upon our own sufferings, it is only because of those sufferings that we are able to have our eyes opened to see the hope that we have in a living God whose love is mightier than the cross, mightier than the hatred of the world, mightier than our sin, and mightier than death itself. When we see our own times of trial and tribulation through the cross, we see the faithful promises of God that give our suffering purpose.

Thanks for spending time with me today in God's Word, and remember, that God has forgiven yesterday, is with you today, and has already taken care of tomorrow. Amen.