



## 1. We have the proof of His identity.

John 2:18 *Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"*

19 *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."*

Matthew 27:39 *Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"*

Matthew 27:62 *The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."*

65 *"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."* 66 *So they went and made the*

*tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.*

## 2. We have the promise of forgiveness.

Luke 23:34 *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

1 Corinthians 15:17 *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*

Romans 4:25 *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

## 3. We have purpose for living.

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

## 4. We have the proof of eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

Romans 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

## 5. We have the peace to endure suffering.

2 Corinthians 4:14 *because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with*

*Jesus and present us with you in his presence . . . 16  
Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are  
wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by  
day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving  
for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we  
fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For  
what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal*

6. We have the power to change.

Romans 6:4 *We were therefore buried with him through  
baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised  
from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may  
live a new life.*

Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-18

2. What is the treasure in verse 6?

3. What are the jars of clay in verse 7?

4. Why did God put this treasure in jars of clay?

5. In what ways had Paul (the writer of 2 Corinthians) been hard pressed or perplexed?

6. Have you ever felt hard pressed or perplexed in your faith? Would you share that with this group?

7. It was perplexing that God allowed His servants like Paul to be *persecuted* and *knocked* down. What purpose did this have according to verses 11-12?

8. What promise can we hold on to in verse 14?

9. How was Paul's suffering of benefit in verse 15?

10. Have you ever seen a benefit to suffering?

11. How can we keep from losing heart in verse 18?

12. What difference has the resurrection of Jesus made in your life?