

Eternal Glory

2 Corinthians 4.8-12 describes Paul's life as an apostle. I don't know if we can even imagine what it was like. Despite all of this, he writes, *therefore, we do not give up*, 4.16a. This type of mindset is so essential. Sometimes, life becomes so hard that it would be easier to give up than keep going. But we resist and remain focused. *We are always confident*. Does this describe your life?

I. What Fueled Paul's Endurance?

- A. 4.16b - *Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our **inner person** is being renewed day by day.*
 - 1. 4.18b - he focused on what is *unseen* and *eternal*.
 - 2. 5.7 - *for we walk by **faith**, not by sight.*
- B. Ephesians 1.18-23 fits in here. Paul's prayer is for spiritual insight into:
 - 1. *Knowledge of our glorious inheritance.*
 - 2. *The immeasurable greatness of His **power** toward those who believe, according to the mighty working of His **strength**.*
 - 3. *You have been filled with Jesus ... in every way.*
- C. Ephesians 2.6 - will we remember our location? We have been *seated ... with Him **in the heavens** in Christ Jesus.*
- D. Ephesians 3.17-20: We operate from the perspective of power: not weakness.

II. How This Fits into Everyday Life

- A. 2 Corinthians 4.17 - *momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal **weight** of glory.*
- B. 4.18 - His focus was on *the unseen*. i.e., the *inward renewal* of v.16.
- C. Paul kept reminding himself of the *heavy weight of glory* to come.

III. What Glory?

- A. 2 Corinthians 5.1-5 - the weight of glory is the new body.
 - 1. 5.1 - tent vs. **building**. (A resurrected body is durable and permanent)
 - 2. 5.2 - we groan while in the flesh - earnestly desiring our heavenly dwelling.
 - 3. 5.3-4 - Paul's first preference was to be alive when Christ returns. He wanted his fleshly body to be **swallowed up** by life.
- B. 5.8 - If Jesus' return was delayed, he wanted to *be away from the body and at home **with the Lord***. The weight of glory is that we are with the Lord upon our death.
 - 1. Connect Philippians 1.21...
 - 2. 5.6-7 - Paul was willing to remain on earth and *walk by faith and not by sight*.
 - 3. Philippians 1.25 - no matter what happened - Paul would use his time on earth to advance the kingdom and find joy in others.

IV. Is Your Life in Step With These Priorities?

- A. Let's make application from these three passages:
 - 1. Colossians 3.2 - have you set your mind on what is above?
 - 2. Philippians 3.20- do you live like *a citizen of the kingdom*?
 - 3. Philippians 1.21 - do you view death more as a **gain** than a loss?
- B. Does 2 Corinthians 4.8-9 describe you? Does 2 Corinthians 4.16a align with your attitude? Are you living by the principle of 2 Corinthians 5.7?