Message: This Changes Everything- God Can Use Anybody

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Give yourselves completely to God – every part of you – because you've been brought from death to life, and now <u>you want to be used by God</u> for good, and for his righteous purposes.

Romans 6:13

PAUL'S SECRETS OF STAYING USABLE

NEVER FORGET- IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF GOD'S MERCY

God <u>in His mercy</u> has given us this ministry and work to do. That's why we do not become discouraged and never give up. 2 Corinthians 4:1

You know what I was like . . . how I violently persecuted Christians. I did my best to get rid of them . . . But then something happened. For it pleased God <u>in his kindness</u> to <u>choose</u> me and call me, even before I was born. What undeserved mercy. Galatians 1:13-15

It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. Ephesians 2:10

BE REAL

We don't try to trick anyone, and we don't twist the word of God. Instead we teach the truth plainly, <u>showing everyone who we really are.</u> Then they can know in their hearts <u>what kind of people we are</u> in God's sight. 2 Corinthians 4:2

The Spirit we received does not make us <u>slaves again to fear</u>; it makes us <u>children of God</u>. Romans 8:15

REMEMBER-IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord. We are merely your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:5

We are like <u>clay jars</u> in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

USE MY PAIN TO HELP OTHERS

All of these sufferings of ours are for your benefit. 2 Corinthians 4:15

This is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are <u>being renewed every</u> <u>day</u>. For our <u>present troubles</u> are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

STAY FOCUSED ON ETERNITY

These little troubles are getting us ready for an <u>eternal glory</u> that will make all our troubles seem like nothing. 2 Corinthians 4:17

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is <u>seen is temporary</u>, but what is <u>unseen is eternal</u>. 2 Corinthians 4:18