

Aug 5, 2023

1 Group

**Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

2

### *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

<sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen

3

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

**Theme:** How afflictions fuel our affections for Christ and our longings for glory.

### Outline:

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)  
"Therefore we do not lose heart..."
  - THE NEW COVENANT (ministry of transformation)

5

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

### Old Covenant

Written with ink

On tablets of stone

Letter kills

Came with glory

Glory fades

Veil lies over their heart

Unable to change heart

### New Covenant

Written with the Spirit

On human hearts

Spirit gives life

Abounds in glory

Glory surpasses it

Veil is removed in Christ

Being transformed

6

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart..."*

- THE NEW COVENANT (ministry of transformation)
  - Moses predicts the New Covenant
    - "A heart to understand" (Deut 29:4).

7

## *Deuteronomy 30:6*

<sup>6</sup>"Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

8

Deuteronomy 30:6

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*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart..."*

- THE NEW COVENANT (ministry of transformation)
  - Moses predicts the New Covenant
    - "A heart to understand" (Deut 29:4).
  - Jeremiah predicts the New Covenant
    - Jeremiah 31:33, "I will put my law in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts."

9

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

- THE NEW COVENANT (ministry of transformation)
  - Ezekiel predicts the New Covenant
    - Ezekiel 36:26-27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

10

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Two Signs you're living under the Old Covenant:

1. You often feel condemned

11

## ***Romans 6:14***

<sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

12

Romans 6:14

## *Romans 8:1*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

13

Romans 8:1

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Two Signs you're living under the Old Covenant:

1. You often feel condemned
2. You think you must work for your salvation

14

### *Philippians 2:12-13*

<sup>12</sup>So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

15

Philippians 2:12-13

### *Titus 3:5-6*

<sup>5</sup>He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

16

Titus 3:5-6



## *Luke 22:20*

<sup>20</sup>And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Two Signs you're living under the Old Covenant:

1. You often feel condemned
2. You think you must work for your salvation

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart..."*

2. The Problem with the outer man (16b)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying"*

- The outer man – the visible, external aspect of a person.

19

## *Romans 8:22*

<sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

20

Romans 8:22

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart..."*

2. The Problem with the outer man (16b)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying"*

- The outer man – the visible, external aspect of a person.
- "is decaying" – to corrupt, to perish

21

## *Matthew 6:20*

<sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

22

Matthew 6:20

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)
2. The Problem with the outer man (16b)
3. The Process within the inner man (16c)

*"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, **yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.**"*

23

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*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

3. Process within the inner man (16c)
  - "inner man" – your soul (who you truly are)

24

*Romans 12:2*

<sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

25

Romans 12:2

*Colossians 3:10*

<sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

26

Colossians 3:10

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*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)
2. The Problem with the outer man (16b)
3. The Process within the inner man (16c)
4. The Promise for the afflicted (v.17)

*"For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison..."*

27

## Fixed on Eternity

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

4. The Promise for the afflicted (v.17)
  - "Is producing" – to work out, to accomplish, to achieve, to do that from which something results.

28

## *Romans 8:18*

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

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*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

1. The main reason Christians do not lose heart (16a)
2. The Problem with the outer man (16b)
3. The Process within the inner man (16c)
4. The Promise for the afflicted (v.17)
5. The Perspective of the afflicted (v. 18)

***"while we look** not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

5. The Perspective of the afflicted (v. 18)
  - “while we look” – to take aim at, fix one’s eye upon, contemplate, to direct ones attention to

**31**

## ***Job 19:25-27***

<sup>25</sup>As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

<sup>26</sup>Even after my skin is destroyed,  
Yet from my flesh I shall see God; <sup>27</sup>Whom I myself  
shall behold,  
And whom my eyes will see and not another.  
My heart faints within me!

**32**

*Job 19:25-27*



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5. The Perspective of the afflicted (v. 18)
  - “while we look” – to take aim at, fix one’s eye upon, contemplate, to direct ones attention to

**33**

## ***Revelation 21:5***

<sup>5</sup>And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He \*said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

**34**

Revelation 21:5

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

### **Application:**

1. Recall God's promises in your afflictions
2. Sing amidst your afflictions

**35**

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
in every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heav'nly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

**36**

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

**37**

## **Fixed on Eternity**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

**38**

