

Sections

- **1:1-2:13** The Comforting, Clean Heart of a Minister
- **2:14-4:6** The New Covenant – The Glory of the Gospel in the Face of Christ
- **4:7-15** The Actuality of Ministry seems “less” than glorious

1

Paragraph Titles

- Manifesting Christ the Image of God
4:1-6
- Manifesting Christ in “Real” Life
4:7-4:15
- The Weight of Glory
4:16-18

2

Manifesting Christ in “Real” Life

- 4: 7-9 Trials always face us
- 4: 10-12 Death must be faced
- 4: 13-15 Fearless proclamation

- 4: 10-18 The Weight of Glory

3

II Cor 4:10-18

Living in the Light of the
Glory of God

The Paradox of Glory

4

2:14-7:4
in relation to the book

A sustained defense of “pure” apostle-ship

A second line of thought:
glory in the midst of trial
thlipsis
forgiving
“dying living”

victorious life in midst of dying
dying so that life of Jesus might be seen

4:7-15 Laws of Structure

- V 7 Preparation for what follows

- vv. 8-14 Support for Paul’s recognition of both weakness and strength by a series of contrasts

6

4:7

- Seems to be in contrast to 'glory of God' v.6
- Cf. v 1 'we have' - possessive – not ownership but guardianship of a priceless treasure
- Treasure, storeroom = "thesaurus" (only here and Col 2:3 in Paul)
Jesus often uses it (13t) mainly negatively

7

What is this treasure?

- Options:
 - Illumination due to the glory of God (6)
 - Gospel (4)
 - Or both (4)
 - "The ministry of the gospel of the glory of God"

8

earthen

- 'ostrakon' – baked, clay formed as pots
- Israel is strewn with them – shards of fragile earthenware – expendable, cheap, relatively worthless, unostentatious
- **Paradox:** contain a priceless treasure
- Paul is not diminishing the body as many false prophets did
- He is emphasizing the grandeur of what it is to bear Christ's life to the world

9

vessels

- Jar, container
- Here the whole person is referred to:
- Not a dualism of something deposited and the outer 'shell' has no meaning
- (important for later discussion 4:16-5:9)

10

10-12 Death must be faced The dying and the life of Jesus

- Vessels carry the *glory of God*
 - Always carrying the death of Jesus
 - Others have always tried to kill the Jesus that is before them (response of the perishing)
 - They don't hate you they hate me – Jesus to his disciples (Jn 15:18-21)
- **Preparation:** 1:5 the sufferings of Christ
Paul keeps working this out

11

The death of Christ

- Word is '*necrosis*' only here and of Sarah's womb in Rom 4:19
- It is best interpreted as a **process of dying**
 - Paul faced this possibility continually but he is referring to the 'dying' experienced by Jesus throughout his ministry but especially in his passion.
- The last week of the life of Jesus is the climax of the course of events leading up to His death.
- Similarly, we are to identify with His life and death

12

That which reflects His Glory

- ...that the Life also may be manifested (10)
- ...that the Life also may be manifested (10)
 - Repetition like this? Only word order shift
- ...but life in you (12)
- ...will raise us also with Jesus (14)

13

The only way to receive His Life

- We don't earn it
- We don't get it by belief alone
- We don't somehow understand it
- We don't "draw upon"
- We have to die
- It is only His Life that is manifested

14

v. 13? Bold Proclamation

- Faith – hasn't occurred since 1:24
- Spirit of faith (anywhere else?)
- Ps 116: 10
- Having the same spirit of faith - Which animated the saints of old; David, in particular, when he said, I believed, and therefore have I spoken - That is, I trusted in God, and therefore he hath put this song of praise in my mouth. *JW Notes on NT*

15

What difference does the Resurrection make for my life?

- Newness/Freshness (Rom 6:4. 7:6)
- Openness to All of Him
- Clearness
- Freedom
- Unhindered by the "down pull" of life

16

Paragraphs

Ch 1-7 Paul's defense of true Ministry

- 1:1-11 Gospel of Comfort
- 1:12-2:13 Gospel offered with Clean Conscience
- 2:14-3:6 Ministering a New Covenant – The Glorious Gospel of Christ
- 3:7-4:15 The Real glory of Ministry seems "less" than glorious
 - 8-9 Trials always face us
 - 10-12 Death must be faced
 - 13-14 Fearless proclamation before God and man
 - **15 The Power of gratitude**

17

Laws of Structure

- V 7 Preparation for what follows
- Vv 8-14 Support for Apostle's recognition of weakness and strength
- **V 15 Climax/Conclusion**

18

Why do we bear His death?

- We bear His dying that the power of His life might be made manifest.
- We are the living dead or the dying living!
- Taking up our Cross
- Living Sacrifices

19

4:7 and 15

- Frailty has two effects:
 - REALIZATION**
 - Treasure 7a: Power for transformation is God's alone, as is strength to endure
 - *How willing am I to let Him manifest His Life?*
 - RESPONSE**
 - Thanks (15): spreading of the gospel of His transforming grace brings gratitude

20

Glory through Suffering 4:16-18

- Seems to be a transitional paragraph
4:7-15 Death in life for Life
- 4:16-18 forms a type of **'bridge'**
 - Looks both back and then forward
 - Death and life and the depth of glory
- 5:1-10 Life after Death

21

We do not lose heart 4:16

- In vs 1 the same word is used –
 - *To behave badly or in a cowardly way*
 - A slackening, a weariness, a temptation to lose hope
 - Paul says, No! We have no reason to falter
 - The glorious power and liberating transformation of the Holy Spirit has become our sustenance 3:17-18
 - The resurrection life of Jesus has been shared with us 4:10

22

Paradox

- Definition?
a statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory or absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth.
- Ch. 1 divine comfort in affliction
- Ch. 4 divine strength in weakness
- Ch. 4 divine life in midst of death
- Here – divine glory in the midst of fear

23

We do not lose heart v. 16

- Paul starts his argument with this in 4:1
- Then he supports his loving command 4:2-15
- Nothing, not even death itself can repress the resurrection life that motivates the Christian life
- Christian perseverance is not of us but from God's mercy 4:1
- That mercy is powerful, as real and brilliant as the resurrection:
- It is a cleansing mercy, a restoring mercy, an adopting mercy, and a lovingkindness which endows us with the glory of the Trinity

24

The contrast based upon eternal life known in the heart

- So – or more strongly, rather, but, in distinct contrast, we do not lose heart.
- Though our outer self (our body) is wasting away, (even the tense is passive) a process of decay!

TWIN PROCESSES CONTINUE ALL THROUGH LIFE

YET, a radical contrast in direct proportion to the assault there is a divine resilience, our inner self (our spirit, soul) is being renewed day by day (day after day, only found here in NT). 4:16 cf. to 3:18 changed from one degree of glory to another

25

Flow of thought

- Therefore (as a result of ‘dying living’)
- Statement of resolve: (cf. v. 1) we don’t cave in
- Support by Contrast:
 - Even though...
 - Yet our...
 - While we...
 - But the things

26

Recurrence of Contrast in 16-18

- Outer in relation to the Inner
- Decay vs. Renewal (16)
- Momentary vs. Eternal (17)
- Light vs. Weighty (17)
- Affliction vs. Glory (17)
- Seen vs. Unseen (18)
- Temporal vs. Eternal (18)
- 5:1 earthly tent vs. building from God
 - Torn down vs. eternal in the heavens

27

- *para – doxos*: h.l. Lk 5:26 “we have seen a paradox today” something that causes wonder (that ‘accords with’ glory)
- Ch. 1 divine comfort in affliction
- Ch. 4 divine strength in weakness
- Ch. 4 divine life in midst of death
- Ch 4 divine rejuvenation in the midst of human debilitation

28

4:17

- *For*: points back, another reason not to give up
- Two qualifiers of afflictions (*thlipseis*)
 - Adverb: Immediate, short-lived
 - Adjective: Light, insignificant amount, slight

Note what these afflictions *OF OURS* are producing *IN US*

29

A personal question?

- How are you facing the trials of today?
- If persecution produces His powerful mercies life-giving flow that means something is added to me daily that I don’t want to miss out on.
 - In Christ, no damage is wasted.
- What is it that brings hope to the soul?
- What produces forward-looking vision?

30

The Weight of Glory

- *Kabed* – glory (376 times in OT) lit. heavy but seldom used that way literally
 - Heavy with sin – hardening (*kabed*) of Pharaoh's heart
- The Holy One is only about making us like Him in His character - glorious
- He will take every circumstance and work it into value, weightiness, substance, valuable, worthy, honorable,

31

The process of His new creation

- *Exo Lit.* this outer person – our physical reality
 - Present tense – continually decaying
 - But, However, In distinct contrast, nevertheless
- *Eso Lit.* this inner person – what makes us who we are, the new creation, our spiritual life
 - Present tense – continually being renewed
 - Made new continually
- The resurrection began such a chain of events for us as believers that it offers a continual dynamic, a sanctifying growth that is completed when we see Jesus.
- His resurrection **and ours** have a goal and that is the glorification of our bodies

32