

“Biblical Truth for Life’s Everchanging Seasons”
II Corinthians 4:6-18

As we look ahead to the uncertainties and possibilities of the New Year that lies ahead, the Biblical passage before us provides abundant truth as well as practical encouragement. The Apostle Paul is extolling the glories of the New Covenant ministry while also describing in realistic terms how God has placed this glorious treasure in our weak, vulnerable, decaying bodies for His lofty, glorious purposes.

- 1. GOD’S SOVEREIGN GRACE IN MAKING US HIS NEW CREATION OF LIGHT (4:6; Genesis 1: II Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:12-13).**
- 2. GOD’S SHOCKING CHOICE IN PLACING HIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS WAS FOR TWO PRIMARY REASONS (4:7-12).**

- So that others will see that He is the reason for the change in us is due to His power and not our own (4:7).

Four contrasting paradoxes (4:8-9)

- So that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our bodies—in our mortal flesh (4:10-11).

3. PAUL’S “SPIRIT OF FAITH” THAT SHAPED HIS THINKING (4:13-15).

- It was rooted in Scripture (4:13).
- It was anchored in the resurrection of Christ (4:14; I Corinthians 15:12-22; II Timothy 2:8).
- Its passion was for the spreading of the Gospel of grace (4:15a)
- Its purpose was to ultimately abound for the glory of God (4:15b).

4. BIBLICAL REALITIES THAT KEEP ALL BELIEVERS STRONG AND RESOLUTE IN THEIR FAITH (4:16-18).

- Our inner person is being renewed day by day even while our outer bodies are decaying (4:16; II Corinthians 3:18).
- Our momentary trials and sufferings are working toward God’s glorious, eternal purpose (4:17; Romans 8:18).
- Our faith is focused on the unseen, eternal realities and not on the visible but temporal charms of this world (4:18).

