

NOW / THEN

v.13

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written: "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

v.14

knowing that He who raised Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present us with you.

v.15

For all things are for your sakes, so that grace, having spread to more and more people, will cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 3:12-16

Therefore, having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, v.13 and we are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not stare at the end of what was fading away. V14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. V15 but to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts; v16 but whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."

NOW / THEN

I. Same spirit of faith (as psalmist) - affliction yet trusting God

II. My hope is that you see your Faith in Christ (even in the midst of suffering) will produce  
Speaking to others about Faith in Christ (even in the midst of suffering) will produce  
(Thanksgiving to overflow) will produce glory to God more and more.

2 Corinthians 4:13

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written: "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

NOW / THEN

Paul's foundation – Christ and His salvation and rescue of sinners.

2 Corinthians 4:14

Verse 14 "knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present us with you."

NOW / THEN

Grace spreads to more and more people v.15 DESPITE OVERwhelming difficulties

2 Corinthians 4:15

v.15 "For all things are for your sakes, so that grace, having spread to more and more people, will cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

## NOW / THEN

- Paul's faithful service was to Christ – and not to himself.
- Paul counted all things as loss compared to knowing Christ
- Paul's mission was to share the gospel of Jesus Christ so that sinners could be saved and live; a life (by dying) of joyful hope that others would spend eternity in heaven with Christ and him.

Paul's relentless work for Christ even though it meant beatings, imprisonment, slander, mistreatment all laid the foundation of proclamation of the gospel. Through the grace filled saving work of Jesus, he proclaimed, others received this beautiful message of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven with Christ and burst forth JOY and Thanksgiving to God which in turn multiplied GLORY to GOD over and over for all those who believe.

Today you can have the greatest hope and joy you will ever experience on earth during your life –

Simply agree with God and His Son that we are not God, that we have fallen short of perfection and sinlessness, and we put our complete faith/trust in the perfect sinless One Jesus Christ who paid our debt and set us free from sin and death.

## NOW / THEN

OLD Congo Republic:

Daughter of missionaries to the Congo Republic recounted as a little girl (Judy Anderson) how she had participated in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of missionaries to the Congo Republic.

- All day event-starting at sunrise to sunset
- Speeches
- Music

But at the end of the day a very old man stood before the crowd to speak. He said there's something I know that no else knows, and I'm soon going to die. If I don't tell you I will take this to the grave with me. 100 years ago, He said that when the missionaries first came, the people thought them odd and their message suspicious. The tribal leader, seeking to test the missionaries and their message, slowly poisoned them to death over a period of months, even years. Children (1st preschooler) then husband in another family got sick and died then the wife of the third couple and another child of the missionaries died one by one over a period of months, even years. Despite children and fathers and mothers of the missionaries dying on by one, the missionaries stayed and proclaimed the gospel, even as they died. The old man commented, "It was as we watched how they died (and decided the message must be true) and that's when we decided we wanted to live as Christians and follow Jesus." Dying literally and/or to the flesh for Christ brings glory to GOD and we know our hope and proclamation of Christ to a spiritually dying world is NOT in vain.

NOW / THEN

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Amen