

FOUR GREAT TRUTHS FOR GOD'S MINISTERS
II COR. 4:15-18

Introduction:

- A. Paul has affirmed his faith.
 - 1. v13.
 - 2. "we have the same Spirit of faith."

- B. Paul has stated his belief in resurrection.
 - 1. v14.
 - 2. "knowing that he which raised up..."

- C. He continues his expression of divine truth.
 - 1. God may be glorified. v15.
 - 2. Paul was renewed inwardly. v16.
 - 3. Affliction is short-lived. v17.
 - 4. What we see is temporal. v18.

I. PAUL DID SUFFER FOR THE CHURCH THAT GOD MIGHT BE GLORIFIED.
V15

- A. "For all things are for your sakes."
 - 1. All of the suffering is for you.
 - 2. Paul gave himself to service.
 - 3. We must not stop here!

that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God."

- 1. Paul suffered for the church, not that they would receive glory, but that God would receive it!
- 2. Eph. 3:21, "Unto Him be glory in the church."
- 3. The church is not to be glorified, but God.
- 4. Israel was exalted for God's sake.

II. PAUL WAS STRENGTHENED EVERY NEW DAY. V16
[Isaiah 40:28-31]

- A. Paul didn't quit because he suffered.

1. faint = ekkakeo - to turn out a coward, to be faint-hearted, esp. in view of trial or difficulty.
- B. Paul knew his body was perishing.
1. Perish = diaphtheiro - to decay, wholly perish. He was decaying, therefore perishing.
 2. His body could not take much more.
- C. Paul was strengthened each day.
1. renewed = anakainoo - to come in the place of what was formerly and has not been used.
 2. inward man = spiritual man.
 3. The Lord's Prayer. "day by day our daily bread."
 4. Manna of Israel.

III. HIS SUFFERING WAS TEMPORARY AND HAD SIGNIFICANT MEANING.

V17

- A. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment."
1. light = elaphron - opposite of "baros" heavy.
 2. affliction = pathema = a suffering.
 3. moment = parautika - the briefest duration.
- B. "Worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."
1. worketh = kataergazomai - to achieve.
 2. exceeding = in a surpassing manner.
 3. eternal = aionios = immeasurable time.
 4. weight = baros - weight in reference to pressure.
- C. The slight trouble of the passing hour, brings with it a reward multiplied every way, loading us with everlasting glory."
1. What pain there is here cannot be compared to the glory that is out there.

IV. PAUL VIEWED THINGS FROM GOD'S VIEW. V18

- A. "things" - ta - the things, anything, everything.
 - 1. Webster = the concrete entity as distinguished from its appearances, a spatial entity.
 - 2. An idea or notion.
 - 3. Everything in heaven and on the earth. Everything everywhere!

- B. There are only two kinds of things.
 - 1. seen = blepo - to use the eyes, to see.
temporal = proskairos - for a season.
 - 2. unseen = blepo - to use the eyes, not see,
eternal = aionios - belonging to the ages,
immeasurable time.
 - 3. We look at one or the other.
 - a. look = skopeo - to inspect, to reconnoitre,
scoping out the territory and fixing our eyes on
the indestructible.
 - b. scope = to view.

V. THESE FOUR GREAT TRUTHS OF GOD STAND FOR US IN THIS AGE.

- A. We may glorify God.
 - 1. What we do may glorify God.
 - 2. Must be for His glory!

- B. We can be renewed daily.

- C. Affliction in comparison to eternity is brief.

- D. We must see beyond what the physical eye can see.