

THE PROOF OF GOD'S POWER IN THE MINISTRY
II COR. 4:7-12

Introduction:

- A. The truths of the New Testament are "treasures."
 - 1. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels."
 - 2. treasure = anything stored up, hence, valuable.

- B. The treasure is in an "earthen vessel."
 - 1. earthen = earthenware, the commonest of vessels.
 - 2. Treasures usually in splendid containers.

- C. Paul tells the church why it is so.
 - 1. "that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us."
 - 2. excellency = a surpassing, that which is beyond.
 - 3. power = power in action, dunamis.

- D. The complex and providential life of Paul proved that his message was promoted by a divine power.
 - 1. 3:5.
 - 2. 1:8-10.

I. THE MINISTER WAS SURROUNDED, BUT NOT CUT-OFF.

- A. "we are troubled on every side."
 - 1. troubled = thlipsis - straitness, surrounded by trouble.
 - 2. We are hedged in from every side.

- B. "yet not distressed."
 - 1. distressed = to crowd into a narrow place, not able to turn one's self.
 - 2. We live no cramped lives.
 - 3. A 10 ft. X 10 ft. cell, but not closed in.

II. THE MINISTER WAS UTTERLY BROKE, BUT NOT WITHOUT RESOURCES

page 37

A. "we are perplexed."

1. perplexed = aporeomai - to be without resource, to know not what to do.
2. We are hard put to it.

B. "but not in despair."

1. despair = eksaporeomai - to be wholly without resource.
2. But never at a loss.

III. THE MINISTER WAS RUN OFF, BUT NEVER ABANDONED.

A. "Persecuted."

1. ekdioko - to drive out of a place.
2. We are hunted down.
 - a. What Paul did, he experienced.
 - b. Often times people who are particularly mean to God's men have loved one's called to preach!

B. "but not forsaken."

1. forsaken = egkatalaipo - to leave behind in any place, to desert.
2. We are never abandoned to our state.

IV. THE MINISTER WAS INJURED, BUT NEVER IDLED.

A. "cast down."

1. cast = kataballo - to strike down, overthrow.
2. We are struck down to the ground.

B. "but not destroyed."

1. destroyed = apollumi - to be put to death.
2. Struck down, but never struck out.

V. THE MINISTER WAS SUBJECT TO THE SAME EXPERIENCE AS JESUS.

- A. "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus."
 - 1. delivered = paradidomi - to hand over to another, to deliver up.
 - 2. Wherever I go I am being killed in the body as Jesus was.

- B. "that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."
 - 1. So that in this body also life may reveal itself, the life that Jesus lives.
 - 2. Our mortal flesh reflects the power of His immortality.

VII. THE MINISTER DIES DAILY, THAT HIS HEARERS MAY LIVE. U12

- A. "so then death worketh in us."
 - 1. death = thanatos = the natural end of life.
 - 2. worketh = energeo - to be in work, to energize.

- B. "but life in you."
 - 1. The kind of death that Jesus died is at work in us but the result in you is not death but life.
 - 2. We are subject to death and we put ourselves in death situations for the life of others.

VIII. THE MINISTER MUST MAKE HIS SACRIFICES, AND TRUST HIS GOD

- A. Are not in same manner.
 - 1. Constitution forbids such in U.S.A.
 - 2. We bear psychological scars.
 - 3. So do our families!

- B. We will not stack our arms!
 - 1. We may re-group.
 - 2. We may re-organize.
 - 3. We may rest.

- C. We have faith!