

# HIDDEN TREASURE

- The \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to God! Verse 7
- God triumphs amid human \_\_\_\_\_! Verses 8-10
- Death can \_\_\_\_\_ life! Verses 11-12
- We can trust God amid \_\_\_\_\_! Verses 8-16
- God will \_\_\_\_\_ us despite our affliction! Verses 16-18

TRANSFORMED

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

07 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

08 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

09 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,

14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

# Hidden Treasure

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July 25, 2021

**Open:** Where might people typically store their treasured possessions?

**Read & Discuss:** 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

1. In verse 7 Paul says, "we have this treasure in jars of clay." What does he mean by this and how does this help illustrate his larger point that he's been making to the Corinthian believers? How does this truth "show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us"? How should this have practical applications on our attitude in presenting the Gospel message?
2. Paul creates a list of contrasts in verses 8 through 12. He begins with hard, but true present realities and contrasts each with a promise of hope.
  - a. First, take a minute to read aloud just the hard but true realities. Next, share some of your thoughts and reflections about this list. How have you experienced some of these?
  - b. Now read aloud the promises of hope in each of these verses. How does this second list encourage or comfort you?
  - c. How is the pairing of these hardships and promises helpful to us as believers? How would you encourage someone you're discipling to think about trials, hardships or challenges they experience when seeking to serve Christ?
3. Paul, like David, had faith in the purpose and faithfulness of God (v. 13). Paul also looked forward to the resurrection of all believers (v. 14). As a result, Paul continued to preach the Gospel in difficult circumstances. What helps you persevere in sharing the Gospel?
4. According to verse 15, what motivates Paul to see the grace of the Gospel reach more people? How has this motive been present in your own efforts to share the Gospel?
5. How would you describe the contrast Paul makes in verses 16-18? How have you experienced this to be true? How can we more consistently operate with the perspective that Paul has been describing in this passage?

**Apply:** What fears keep you from sharing the Gospel with others? What promises has God given us that serve as good encouragement to proceed in spite of those fears?

**Pray:** Pray that God would empower us to overcome whatever barriers we have in being bold proclaimers of the Gospel. Ask God to give us good reminders of His promises. Pray for one another by name that God would give us opportunities to share the treasure of the Gospel message with those who would receive it with joy.

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

<sup>[7]</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>[8]</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>[9]</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>[10]</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>[11]</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>[12]</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>[13]</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>[14]</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>[15]</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>[16]</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>[17]</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>[18]</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)