

“ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY”

INTRODUCTION

Please turn in your New Testament to 2 Cor. chapter 4. Saul of Tarsus, the great persecutor of Christ and His church, was converted and became the “persecuted.” He speaks of this to the Corinthians, with whom he shared affliction, to remind them that there is something awaiting them that makes suffering worthwhile. Now, let’s read the text of 2 Cor. 4:16-18. Paul makes several comparisons in this passage that we need to consider. The term, “eternal weight of glory” (found in verse 17) becomes the title of our lesson today.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Paul contrasts the NATURE OF MAN.

TEXT: “...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”

- A. The “outward” man is the physical man, the body that God gives each person born into the world, to house the mind and soul of each individual.
1. The outward man is temporal in nature, and will someday return to dust. Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 3:2A; 12:7; Heb. 9:27
 2. Paul said the outward man is often persecuted for preaching the gospel. vs. 8-15 (Analyze fully)
- B. The “inward” man is the spiritual part of man, consisting of the mind and soul which gets stronger day by day, and is continually renewed. 2 Cor. 4:16; Rom. 12:2

II. 2nd, Paul contrasts between the NATURE of our affliction and glory.

TEXT: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

- A. Paul says 3 things about our afflictions.
1. 1st, he says our afflictions are “light.”
 - a. It is light compared to the suffering Jesus did for us.
 - b. It is light compared to what we deserve for violating God’s will.
 - c. It is light compared to great love of God for mankind.
 2. 2nd, Paul says our affliction is “but for a moment,” it will not always exist. Matt. 10:28
 3. 3rd, our light affliction “works for us” a “far more exceeding and exceeding weight of glory.”
 - a. Note the many adjectives Paul uses to describe “glory.” (Analyze)
 - b. Our light affliction can **work** something better for us. 2 Tim. 3:12; Rom. 8:28, 35-37; Psa. 119:67-72
- B. **SONG:** “HEAVEN SHALL SURELY BE WORTH IT ALL” that we sometimes sing.
“Often I’m hindered on my way, Burdened so heavy I almost fall. Then I hear Jesus sweetly say, ‘Heaven will surely surely be worth it all.’ Many the trials, toils and tears, Many a heartache may here appall, But the dear Lord so truly says, ‘Heaven will surely be worth it all.’”

III. 3rd, Paul contrasts the LENGTH of our afflictions and glory.

TEXT: “...for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

- A. Our affliction is for a “moment,” meaning it is temporary, and will come to an end. vs. 17, 18
1. When Polycarp was called on by the Roman leaders to renounce Christ if he wanted to live, answered by saying, *“Eighty and six years he has served me faithfully, how then can I deny my Lord.”* With those words the fire was put to the stakes and he was burned to death.
 2. When afflicted, we are partakers of Christ’s suffering, and after His affliction He entered into eternal glory. Luke 24:26; Heb. 2:10; 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:11
- B. Our length of glory awaiting us will be “eternal”, meaning without end, lasting forever and ever and ever.

CONCLUSION

- I. Finally, Paul reminds us that we are not to “see” the things that are temporal, but to see the unseen, the things that are eternal. v. 18
- A. We are to, with the eye of faith, see GOD. Heb. 11:27
 - B. We are to, with the eye of faith, see JESUS. Heb. 12:2
 - C. We are to, with the eye of faith, see the PROMISE of Jesus’ return. 2 Pet. 3:12-14
- II. Are you ready for the “eternal glory?”

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