



2 Corinthians: Triumph in Trials

Week 7: Our Eternal Glory

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10

Feedback from last week: Treasure in Clay jars

Has last week's passage and session changed you in any way this week? Has you reflected this week at all on being a 'clay pot with God's treasure and power inside'? Have you any stories to share?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10 (twice preferably!)

Questions (choose some from):

- 1) Is there anything that specifically spoke to you from the Sermon on Sunday?
- 2) What is the hope that is outlined in this passage for a Christian and how does it encourage you to keep going in tough times and not 'lose heart'? You might like to brainstorm all the key phrases throughout this passage that speak of hope together.
- 3) What do you think it means by 'outwardly we are wasting away, but inwardly we are being renewed day by day' (4:16)?
- 4) Do you feel that your 'light and momentary troubles are achieving an eternal glory' (4:17)? How?
- 5) What struggles are you going through at the moment? What does it mean for you to 'fix your eyes upon Jesus and what is unseen' (4:18) in the midst of those trials?
- 6) What does it mean for you to 'live by faith and not by sight' (5:7) in your current situation?
- 7) 5:10 speaks of judgement and how we will 'receive what is due to us for things done while in the body, whether good or bad.' How do you feel about this? (Don't confuse this with 'salvation by works' – our salvation does not depend on what we do – Christ died once for all for each of us sinners in order to bring us to God, but this verse does suggest that we will be rewarded in some way in 'the new heaven and the new earth' for how we have lived). How does this encourage you to live differently? [also see 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, Matthew 6:19-21, 16:27, 1 Timothy 6:17-19].

Respond and Encounter:

Some suggestions:

- 1) Listen together to the song 'There is a Day' (<https://youtu.be/h4JAZFtbl-Y?feature=shared> - do watch the video too if you can as it is helpful) and reflect together how this hope of the future can enable us not to lose heart when things are difficult in this world. Share any responses together after you have listened to the song.
- 2) If there is a particular member of your group who is facing difficulties and struggles now, invite them to sit in the middle of the room and listen to God and pray for them. What is God wanting to say to them in their situation. What does it mean to 'fix our eyes on what is

unseen' in these circumstances? Share any words or pictures you get with each other and pray for that person and that situation.

- 3) **Meditation:** Take some time to sit in silence and imagine yourself before the 'judgement seat' of Christ as Jesus reflects on your life so far. What would he say to you? What would he want to reward you for? How might he be calling you to live differently in the rest of your life still to come? Confess anything you need to confess, give thanks for anything you need to give thanks for and share anything that has particularly come out of this meditation with another member of your group and pray for each other.

Key verses to meditate on this week:
'For we live by faith and not by sight' (2 Corinthians 5:7)