

II Corinthians 4:13-18 We Do Not Lose Heart (Part 1) 2/1/26

Intro: When you were baptized it represented a dying to an old life and then living to a new life. Probably, at the time, you did not fully realize all that it meant, especially the dying part.

Think of it this way; you cannot pour in something new, if the container is already full of other things.

Ex. Romans 6: 1-14

Review: II Corinthians 4:6-11 Notice the contrasting terms; preservation though all kinds of trials (4:6-9); and then the "dying" and "living" part. (4:10-11.)

Ex. Philippians 3:10 / Galatians 6:14

But we must never forget our claim to the joy of our new life in Christ, without which none of us could survive the difficulties of this life. How He picks us up again is a glorious mystery.

11 Cor. 1:4 / Romans 14:17, 15:4-5, 13 That sounds current, and active, and intense! This new life in Christ is fantastic!

Whatever worldliness is taken out of the believer, when he surrenders, is then filled with things that are much better.

Today's Text: 11 Corinthians 4: 13-18 *****

It is amazing to see the risk that Paul and others took to get the Gospel message out to the world. Makes you wonder what made the apostles tick.

Question: What makes you tick? Should we not follow the same pattern of thoughts as Paul? Let us see what those thoughts are today

4:13 Paul could relate to David in this Psalms. (Psalms 116:10). David was in danger in his day and Paul was in a similar situation as he wrote II Cor.

Point: Paul really believed it, and he felt compelled to speak up about it. No compartmentalization, no hidden motives, no "turn- it- on--- turn- it -off" Christian life.

Paul cannot envision an inarticulate believer!

What you really believe will come out of your mouth, and your daily living. Real faith cannot be silent! It must find expression! That light in you, in that "earthen vessel" has to come out!

The Psalmist writer believed, and had to speak about the wonderful realities of Christ Jesus. Paul could do no less! You can do no less.

4:14 This is where unemotional doctrine trumps "feelings" every time.

At my worst ,, for example, "feeling helpless and condemned" moments, the truth of this historical event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives me hope and pulls my emotions back in line!

QUESTION: Do you think you are getting anything out of your "emotion- commotions?" Why do you linger in it so long, when there is incredible power to pull you out of it!

My past feelings; my current feelings; do not change this solid reality of my life with Christ; in Christ. Amen?

Facts rule; emotions follow.

Ex. False negative emotion- My dream of never finishing school. (I did finish every school, the emotion was wrong. If not in a dream, I would not have given it a second's worth of thought)

Ex. False positive emotion- (Meaning; someone in pride thinks they can do something, but really can't do it.) Wyatt Earp (Kurt Russell), brave enough and angry enough to do the gunfight with Ringo, but pauses at the end to cool down just for a moment, to allow the facts to overtake the emotion of the moment. He asked Doc, " I am not fast enough , am I?" Doc said no. It lasted only a moment, then back to the emotions, wanting to do the fight anyway, and was on his way to do it, but somebody stepped in for him, in his place and took care of the situation for him. (Sounds like what Jesus did for us.)

Question: (Luke 9: 23-25 , take up his cross daily- die to the world system) Can we die to our stupid pride, and over-inflated egos,,, one more time, one more day , to die daily to our self-induced misery, and pour out the old, and let the new life in again?

4:15 Do we think this way? What are your predominate thoughts every day? For the glory of God, and for the good of others?

4:16 If you are young and strong you may not think of this verse much. One day you will, and it is a wonderful truth! Such an emphasis on extending youth, and glorifying youth since the end

of WW11. We need to invest in things that will not pass away. Things that only grow stronger and sweeter with time. That would be spiritual things. The only things that make this life full and will bring a great future.

Denny; " The decay of the outward man in the unbeliever is a melancholy spectacle, for to them it is the decay of EVERYTHING! In the Christian it does not touch the life that is hidden in Christ!" Colossians 3:3

As his earthly facilities fade, the things of the Spirit became more precious to Paul. But he had to choose that daily! We have to choose it daily!

POINT: Don't be like those who die in their spirit, along with their body!