

II Corinthians 4:16-18 Part Two (4:8-15) 2/8/2026

The Christian journey is about living more to Christ, and dying more,,, to a world that is dying anyway. (I John 2:17)

A process of becoming more alive to Christ, and no longer dying and disappointed with the diminishing returns of this world. You have to cooperate with the process. Before more of the abundant life comes in, room has to be made for it.

Ex. Romans 10:9-13 “,,, abounding in riches.” Sounds like an inexhaustible supply to me.

It is a constant “transfer” of spiritual wealth. A transfer of funds from a temporary account to an eternal account.

Ex. John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Ex. Matthew 6:19-21

Question: If you knew your bank was uninsured and all the funds in it, including all of your money, would be depleted by next weekend, what would you do? You would transfer or remove that money to a safe place, **well before** the weekend.

Question: Are you doing this with intentionality? Do you know what you are doing with the life God has given you? Are you seeing measurable results?

Text II Corinthians 4:16-18 *****

4:16 “ Therefore (because of the truth in these verses 3:12, 17-18, 4:1-2, 6-7,11,14-15) we do not lose heart, but though our outer man (our physical body) is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”

Ex. Zombie movies- Night of the living dead- 1968. Many , many more since then and increasing.

Never seems to be a movie about a calm, hopeful, attentive zombie who just happens to have a leg or an arm fall off. NO! His mind and spirit seemed to be in a flux of great malfunction, along with his body!

Point: Do not let your spirit die along with your body! It does not have to be that way. Don't become “Saint Elsewhere” always pre-occupied with the thought that the world is not giving him what he wants. You are not a Zombie, are you?

4:17- “Light affliction” on one side---- “eternal weight of glory” on the other.

Without this “training program” and left to ourselves we would die along with our bodies and have little to show for our Christian life.

Paul knew heavy affliction as few have, yet it call it light.

Question: WHY?

1. It is light because it is momentary. So far, you have been successful over what percentage of your trials?

Ex. Big, scared girl on my soccer team. Once she found out what she could do, great success followed.

2. It is light because, if surrendered to God (What does that mean to surrender my pain to God?--- “God would you make something good come out of this affliction?) it has a monstrous payoff, some now and a whole lot later. A return on your investment that cannot be exhausted.

A great prayer: “Lord please never leave me to myself!” (Proverbs 3:5-8)

We have well-covered the verses about what godly suffering can produce in weeks past.

Ex. (James 1/I Peter 1/Romans 5, 8, Psalms 119:71, Acts 5)

You really can know that you are being carried along by the Spirit of God, even in trials.

Question: “Can it really work that way for me?” Well, I do not know unless you tell me what you believe?

Do you believe affliction is a set- back in your life? Just a waste? Then it will not work for you.

Do you believe God is so good and powerful that anything I surrender to Him will bring great blessing to you? Yes, it will work time and time again?

4:18 Temporal vs. the eternal-- You hear, “The best things in life are free.” (Yes, but they are also invisible!”)

You may not have heard this: “ The worst things in life are free also. And also invisible.”

Eventually what you secretly believe will come out into your life, the abundant life with a joy to show it, or a disappointing life of a dying spirit along with a dying body.