

HOLY MAN IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:
A study in I and II Corinthians
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014

Treasure in Jars of Clay
II Corinthians 4:7-18
March 13, 2014

God's power delivers us in this life and in the life to come.

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Cor. 1:12

- 4:7 A. God's power in us says more about Him than it does about us.
"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."
Genesis 41:16; Joshua 6:1-20; Judges 7:2-8; Colossians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 12:1-7
- :8-9 B. God's power helps us overcome life's trials.
"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;"
Psalm 27:10; Luke 12:4-7; John 10:27-30; 2 Cor. 11:16-33; 2 Cor. 6:3-10; 12:9
- :10-12 C. Our sufferings are an opportunity for others to see the life of Christ.
"...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 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. So death is at work in us, but life in you."
John 14:19; Romans 6:8-9; 8:10,17; 2 Corinthians 1:5-7; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:10; 2 Timothy 2:11; 1 Peter 4:13-14
- :13-15 D. Faith in God's resurrection power enables us to . . .
1. endure suffering,
2. be witnesses of the gospel, and
3. bring glory to God.
"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, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 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."
Psalm 116; John 2:22; Acts 2:32; Romans 4:24-25; 6:4; 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:12-57; Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18;
- :16-17 E. As life's troubles wear down our physical body, God is renewing our inner selves and preparing us for eternal glory.
"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,..."
2 Corinthians. 5:17; Ephesians 3:14-17; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:3-7
- :18 F. Our greatest hope is found in Whom and what we cannot see.
"...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."
Psalm 77:19; John 20:29; Hebrews 11:1,7; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 4:20