

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

1. What is the treasure about which Paul speaks in verse 7. (You may want to go back and look at the first six verses)
2. "Jars of clay" is the term Paul uses to describe disciples of Jesus. What does that say about our limitations and our potential impact for the kingdom of God?
3. Make a list of the challenges Paul faces in verses 8-10. (Also see 1 Corinthians 4:11ff) Can you relate to any of these or do you know of situations in the world today where Christians are undergoing this kind of struggle? Is following Jesus worth this cost?
4. Go back through verses 8-10 and note the response Paul has to each of these trials. What do you think of his fortitude? Is he being foolishly naive or does he have reason to hope?
5. What do you think Paul means in verses 11-12 when he talks about being "given over to death?"
6. Why do you think Paul introduces the resurrection theology in verses 14-15? What bearing does this have on his present situation? Do we have the same perspective?
7. In verse 17 Paul differentiates between his present suffering and his everlasting home in heaven. According to the Apostle, "Slight momentary affliction" isn't worth comparing to "the eternal weight of glory." Paul suffered as much or more as any disciple of Jesus has ever suffered for the gospel and yet he sees these afflictions as a trifle compared to being with Jesus for all eternity. In fact he says that his hardships are actually serving a good purpose; "preparing for us." How could one who faced such violent opposition and suffering have such a calm approach to his circumstances? What does this teach us?
8. Look at verse 18. How do you set the priorities of your life, your decisions, goals and lifestyle based on "what is unseen" and why is that important?