

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 6 - Treasures in Jars of Clay - 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

2CO 4:1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. [2] Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. [3] And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. [4] The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. [5] For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. [6] For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2CO 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. [8] We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; [9] persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. [10] We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. [11] For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. [12] So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

2CO 4:13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, [14] because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. [15] All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

2CO 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. [17] For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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65. Why did Paul tell the Corinthians not to lose heart? (4:1)

66. What did Paul believe would result from telling the plain truth? (4:2)
67. How did Paul respond to his opponents' accusations? (4:2)
68. Why did Paul's opponents not understand his ministry? (4:3-4)
69. Who is the god of this age? (4:4)
70. What has the god of this age done? (4:4)
71. Whom did Paul preach? Why? (4:5-6)
72. What kind of jars contained Paul's treasure? (4:7)
73. How did Paul contrast his own weakness with God's power? (4:8-9)
74. What did Paul call his sufferings? (4:10)
75. What value did Paul see in his sufferings? (4:10-12)
76. What motivated Paul to preach the gospel in spite of hardship? (4:13-14)
77. How did Paul encourage the Corinthians to carry on despite difficulty? (4:16-18)