

## Consider It

What are the four ways in which Paul's weakness provided an opportunity for God to display His power (4:8-9)?

We assume that our weakness hinders our usefulness in serving God. Why is this assumption wrong?

How is it that the life of Jesus is on display or revealed during our suffering (4:10-11)? Can you think of an example?

What aspects of Psalm 116 do you think enabled Paul to find kindred faith and confidence to speak (4:13)? What aspects of Psalm 116 encourage your faith?

What enabled Paul to keep on proclaiming the gospel (4:13-14)?

How does Paul encourage Christ-followers to carry on despite difficulty (4:16-18)?

What makes it difficult for us wait in hope on God?

How do each of these promises of renewal encourage you?

- Psalm 103:1-5
- Isaiah 40:29-31
- Lamentations 3:19-26
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 3:10

How has God helped you through difficult times?

## Live It

Praise. It is written and so I rejoice because you are...

Practice. You have promised and I will trust you to...

Prayer. You are the Potter and I am the clay. Mold me and make me after your will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

## Tested and Triumphant!

*Treasure in Jars of Clay*

2 Corinthians 4:1 – 5:10

Sunday, September 22, 2019

## Sermon Sentence

Discover your value as a clay pot.

## Shining His Light in Darkness

**4:1-6**

## Revealing His Life in Your Mortal Body

**4:7-12**

## Believing His Promise Day by Day

4:13-18

Tested and Triumphant!  
Discussion Guide  
"Treasure in Jars of Clay"  
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

### Open It

If you were to walk through a Mexican market what kinds of clay pots could you buy? What do you think were common uses for clay pots in the first century? See 2 Timothy 2:20.

### Read It

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. <sup>13</sup> It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup> 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 to himself. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (NIV)

### Consider It

Why do you think Paul uses the clay pot as a metaphor for our body, our lives?

What treasure is to be found in our clay pots (mortal bodies)?

## Finding Home to Be with Him

5:1-10