

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **July 15, 2018** sermon, "Jars of Clay." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 4:7-18) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

WE DO NOT LOSE HEART IN SERVING GOD BECAUSE . . .

1. Our weakness shows the world that God is strong (7-12)
  - a. God has chosen to make us weak so that we need him.
  - b. We will experience various kinds of trials (afflictions, hard-to-answer questions, persecutions and knock-downs) (8-9)
  - c. When we remain focused on faithfulness while we are weak, the strength of God will show through us and he will get the glory.
  - d. Ultimately, our dying (faithfully) is used of God to help others live.
2. Our faith shows the world that God is on the move (13-15)
  - a. When we believe God, our words will reflect that we believe God.
  - b. Believe God about this: Jesus was raised from the dead, and everyone who belongs to him will be raised from the dead.
  - c. The future is a future of power and life, not matter what you see today.

### CONCLUSION

- Since your affliction is light and temporary, do not look at it (or focus on it).
  - Paul (2 Cor 11:22-27) found a way to minimize great affliction.
- Since your glory is weighty and eternal, look at it! (focus on it)
  - Paul believed Matthew 11:30 and learned to look at the unseen things.
- Our earthly struggles are preparing for us a qualitatively better eternity (18).

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God has brought you to your afflictions and trials so that he can show the world how strong he is. His strength has hit its goal when weak people (like you) trust him. In what ways have your afflictions and problems shown people how strong God is?
2. Based on #2, above: God has brought you to your afflictions and struggles so that he can show the world that he is "on the move" (15). When God brings you through trials, his (1) "grace extends" to (2) "more and more people" so that there will be (3) "increased thanksgiving" forever. Talk about these three ways that "God is on the move" in your trials and afflictions.
3. Based on "Conclusion," above: Talk about this: no matter how heavy they seem now, your trials are light when you compare them to the weight of the glory that God has waiting for you. And again: no matter how long you must bear a trial, it is temporary (only for a lifetime!). That is so short in comparison to the eternal glory that God has waiting for you.
4. Based on "Conclusion," above: Somehow God is going to use your current trials to produce a qualitatively better eternity. How is it helpful to think that every one of your trials is accomplishing a positive effect, and 'improving your eternal capacity to praise and glorify God'?