



REVIEW THE TEXT

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

REVIEW THE SERMON

The Power of Perspective

Context

Endurance in ministry comes from maintaining a biblical perspective. Ministry should be demanding and difficult if done in keeping with the New Testament. How can Christians endure in long-term difficulties, serving as effective ministers of mercy?

Main Points

- IV. We have an outer decay but an inner renewal (v. 16)
- V. We have present suffering but future glory (v. 17)
- VI. We have a visible world but we focus on invisible reality (v. 18)

Interpretative Points

“Wasting away”
Complete decay

“Slight momentary affliction”
Featherweight, temporary suffering

“I’m a Christian, therefore I see life differently. And because I see life differently I live life differently, and because I live life differently I suffer. And because of this perspective I endure. This was Paul’s testimony. And this can be your testimony because grace is available through Christ for obedience to this kind of perspective.”

MAKE APPLICATION

- G** What does persecution look like in America? Around the world? How can we expect and even appreciate persecution as a good thing without being sensational and foolish?
- G** Why do our problems and suffering seem so heavy to us? What keeps us from viewing our problems as featherweight and momentary?
- G** How do you cultivate a heavenly perspective? What are some practical steps you take to focus on the eternal?
- G** What are particular ways you are tempted with temporary, earthly thinking and actions? What areas of your life are filling you with the seen? How are you fighting worldliness?
- G** How do Christians look Christianly at our economy?
- G** How are you ministering the Gospel?
