

5.1.16 Primer

Thankfulness in prayer - even in the midst of sorrow

Hear the Good News:

[6] For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

[7] But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. [8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. [11] For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. [12] So death is at work in us, but life in you.

[13] Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, [14] knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. [15] For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

[16] So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. [17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, [18] as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:6-18 ESV)

The Point:

You can be thankful in all circumstances only when you realize that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)

Quote:

"[Jesus] has me this week. I am using the thorns he has allowed, maybe even gifted, to pin back the veil to see His lovely face, and I can't help but find joy." - a dear friend

Embrace the Good News:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (His commands, his expectations, his characteristics, his desires)
2. What does this passage teach about man in his natural, unspiritual state?
3. What does this passage teach about God's expectations for followers of Jesus?
4. With what we've discussed, try to summarize the passage in your own words as if you were explaining it to a friend.

Live the Good News:

1. What does this passage mean for disciples who make disciples?
2. What does it mean for leaders who make more leaders?
3. How does this passage impact the way that you live out the Good News in your home and in your relationships with friends and family?
 - a. Parents: How can you model these truths to your kids and help them to understand these complex concepts?
4. How does it impact the way that you weave the thread of the gospel as you interact with your church family? In our local community? To the ends of the earth?
5. Come up with 1-3 "I will" statements in response to this passage that address the way you view God or the way that you live your life.