

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7 THE TREASURE & THE VESSEL

Treasures found in clay pots. Israel 425 coins 24K

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

What is this treasure?

What is this earthen vessel, this clay pot?

What is this power?

Why does God use this method, a treasure in a weak vessel?

WHAT IS THE TREASURE?

- **This treasure is a deposit. God has made the deposit.**
- **Two possible meanings.**
 - 1) **The Spirit of God in the Soul of man.**
 - 2) **The ministry and gospel God had committed to Paul/us.**

- **I think primarily in this context the meaning is the second idea.**
- **We will work through the verse with this in mind first.**
- **This treasure is the ministry and gospel God committed to Paul.**
- **This seems to be the main subject through this section.**
- **See vs 3:6, 1-6**
 - **Vs. 1; seeing we have this “ministry.”**
 - **Vs. 2; handling the word of God, manifesting the truth.**
 - **Vs. 3; if our gospel be hid.**
 - **Vs. 4 the light of the glorious gospel of Christ is seen.**
 - **Vs. 5; we preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus Lord.**
 - **Vs. 6; the desired result of the gospel.**
- **These verses describe the ministry, its operation and mission.**
- **Acts 26:18, Paul’s ministry, job description.**
- **The treasure given Paul was the deposit of the gospel, which he was commissioned to preach.**
- **The gospel of the glory of Christ, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.**
- **That this gospel, through the ministry, received by the mercy of God to Paul, would find its abode in the reconciled souls of men and women.**
- **Within this ministry, this gospel is the power of God unto salvation and plants the life of Christ in our souls by the Spirit of God.**
- **Within it is the power to make dead men live, blind men see, unclean men clean.**

WHAT IS MEANT BY "EARTHEN VESSEL"

- This earthen vessel, clay pot, is meant not just the human body, but the whole human being, person.
- The weak, suffering, incompetent perishing man. His whole humanity. Body, strength, mind, intellect, will, etc.
- The whole man is infinitely weak and incapable to produce eternal godly results in the souls of men.
- The treasure is the value.
- To save or protect a \$1 item you do not put it in a \$100. Vase or jar.
- The vessel is inconsequential. It is not the treasure, that which is within is the treasure.

WHAT IS THIS POWER?

- The excellency of the power, surpassing greatness of the power, surpassing power, extra ordinary.
- Power: *dunamis*. A power that is naturally inherent in something.
- It naturally just resides there.
- It is the infinite power of our Almighty God. His omniscience, omnipresence, His omnipotence.
- And it is an "excellency of power"
- Excellence: *hyperbole*. A throwing beyond. Surpassing.

WHY DOES GOD USE THIS METHOD? (Treasure in clay pots.)

- That the Excellency of the power may be seen to be of God!
 - **1 Cor. 2:1-5**
 - **Rom. 15: 18, 19**
 - 2 Cor. 10:10b, *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible."
 - Gal. 4:13; Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you
 - 2 Cor. 11:6a, Even though *I am* untrained in speech
 - 1 Cor. 1:21-29, that no flesh should glory in His presence.
- The effects and results of Paul's ministry infinitely transcend all human powers and abilities in order to magnify the truth of divine power operating in the gospel ministry.
- That the inherent power within the ministry of the gospel is clearly displayed to be that, not of the talent of an earthen vessel, not its ability and power
- Acts. Pentecost results, the lame man healed at the gate, and people raised from the dead, delivered, healed, etc.

- **But, the excellency of the power of God, goes infinitely beyond our weakness. That power which is displayed, shown beyond man's frail abilities.**
- **This power produced by the Spirit of God frees men from the condemnation and power of sin and death.**
- **It delivers them from the power of the god of this age and makes them partakers of eternal life.**
- **It transforms them into the image of Christ.**
- **It is interesting to note that modern ministry with all its pomp and ceremony, all its advantages, special trainings, technology, human skill and gifting, management, organization and finances cannot come close to the power and resulting fruit that the primitive church experienced.**

CONCLUSION:

- **Do I value this ministry as Paul valued it. A treasure.**
- **See Mt. 13:44-46.**