

2 CORINTHINANS 4:10-15

DYING TO LIVE, LIVING TO DIE.

REVIEW/INTRO:

- We see here why Christians suffer, and why it's ok.
- If I claim to be a Christian then my life as a believer is to be a manifestation of the life of Christ.
- What type of Christ is being manifested through me, through you?
- What type of Christ is the world seeing in us?
- How is the true Christ being manifested in and through us?
- The early Christians were taught to expect and realize that this world was not their home.
- That persecution was to be expected and it was their familiar atmosphere.
- They knew the reality they were not the world's darlings, nor did they want to or strive to be.
- Personal application of this and the cost of discipleship was real to them.
- Mt. 23:46, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- And the question must be asked, "Has the Pearl lost its value?"
- READ: **2 Cor. 4:7-15**

1) DEATH TO LIFE: Read 10-12 The death and life principal.

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- Vs. 10; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus.
 - Bearing: signifies "to carry about, or bear about," and is used literally, of carrying the sick.
 - Dying: a putting to death. A slaying, a literal mortification.
- Vs 11; Always delivered unto death for Jesus sake.
 - Delivered: to deliver over, to hand over, to surrender or yield someone up.
 - The Jews delivered Jesus over to the Romans. **Mt. 27**: 2, 18, 26, 58.
- Vs. 10; that the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our body.
- Vs. 11; that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.
- Life: life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself. First use in the N. T.
 - Mt. 7:14 narrow is the gate that leads to "life."
- Manifest: To make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown. To reveal one's true character.

- **Mortal flesh**: subject or liable to death; (defines what he means by "body." Vs. 10)
- Regarding this phrase "**mortal flesh**"; W. E. Vine says, it is applied to the flesh, which stands, not simply for the body, but the body as that which consists of the element of decay, and is thereby death-doomed. Christ's followers are in this life delivered unto death, **that His life** may be manifested in that which naturally is the seat of decay and death. That which is subject to suffering is that in which the power of Him who suffered here is most manifested.
- Vs. 10 The word "**also**" emphasizes the truth that the we are not left with just the dying of the Lord Jesus exemplified in our life, but with the dying we also exemplify the life of Jesus.
 - The decreasing of "me" and the increasing of "He." John 3:30, He must increase, I must decrease.
- Vs. 12, so then death works in us, but life in you. (summary of 10 & 11)
 - Paul was more than willing; he was committed to this dying to self that the life of Christ may be exhibited to those whom he served.
 - Paul had set his heart and mind on this willingness.
 - **Col. 1:24**; I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
- In nature death is opposed to life, it is the enemy of life, but in the Christian life they are united and that which is negative works the positive. Through death comes life.
- The out-working of all of Paul's tribulations was the "always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus **that the life of Jesus would be manifest.**"
 - Gal. 6:17; From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
- Paul's body bore the marks of his being exposed to the same treatment as Jesus and eventually he would die like Jesus, under the hands of his persecutors. But He understood God's principle;
 - Phil. 3:10; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 - The sufferings and the power were linked, one being the fruit of the other. No dying, no life. How about us?
- This process of the breaking, the dying of the outer man, the carnal, the self-reliant, self-driven, self-centered man, is why tribulation happens to us, with us. They are God's messengers of sanctification and growth.
 - Heb. 12:11; Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; **nevertheless**, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to **those who have been trained** by it.
- So then death in us, life in others.

- This was most evident in the life of Christ. All His miracles and blessings that He gave were at the cost of His own life and energies.
- See Him tired, sleepless, hungry, weak and lonely, yet giving life.
- Convenience or ease was not His goal, neither Paul's.
- This giving was not convenient for him, always costing Him His strength.
- But always for the peoples benefit and to the Fathers Glory and manifestation.
- Paul's life also was always costing him, through constant persecutions, tribulations, buffetings, and the sacrifice of service, but he did not lose heart, and so the church saw the "life of Jesus" as the disciples and those around Jesus saw the life of the Father manifested by Jesus.
- Look at Paul's life, his tribulation for Christ and His church.
 - Rom. 8:36, for Thy sake we are killed all the day long, we are counted as sheep for the slaughter, 1 Cor. 15:31, I die daily, 2 Cor. 1:5 the sufferings of Christ abound in us.
 - **2 Cor. 1:8-10, 6:3-10, 2 Cor. 11:23-33**
- The cost of being a true disciple of Christ is seen so vividly in the life of Paul.
- How many so called apostles that we hear of today would be willing to live life like Paul and the other apostles of his day?
 - 1 Cor. 4:9; For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

CONCLUSION:

- As a Christian we must realize we are delivered unto death by the providence, that is the sovereignty of our loving Father.
- All our happenings and circumstances are overseen by the omniscience of our loving heavenly Father, that the life of Jesus may be manifested in us. Can I trust Him?
 - J. O. Sanders; we must remember that God's sovereignty will never clash with His paternity.
- Can I/we say about our walk or lives as Paul says in 2 Cor. 2:15, 16;
 - For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?
- If we want to know the power of God, we must know something of the sufferings and the death.
- **THE WORLD TODAY WILL BE LOOKING FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO KNOW WHAT DYING TO LIVE MEANS.**

CLOSE John 12:20-26.

VS. 13

- **Spirit of faith: the attitude of faith, or the outlook of faith.**
- **Faith in God and His word produces perseverance and a confidence in Him and His word. A uncompromising gospel life.**
- **Paul's life gave him confidence and assurance; he feared nothing in life or death. See him before all his accusers: Jews, Rome.**
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VS. 14:

- **To Present: to cause to stand, to stand near.**
 - **Jude 24, to present you faultless be for the presence of His glory.**
 - **Jesus will present us, cause us to stand near, before His Holy Father as ransomed, recovered, redeemed and righteous, clothed in His blood washed robes.**
- **Raised with Jesus: In His resurrection, with the power of His resurrection and life, raised through Jesus.**
 - **In accordance in likeness of His perfect life. Like Him, in Him we shall be raised.**
 - **Acts 2:24, whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**
 - **Rom.8:11; But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies ^[a]through His Spirit who dwells in you.**
- **Paul was not only delivered from the danger of death, but also from with an ultimate deliverance from death itself.**
 - **Rom. 8:17; if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together with Him,**
 - **.2 Tim. 2:11; *This is* a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*.**

VS. 15: