



CORINTHIANS

A Passion for God's People



**\$5,000 Given to
Samaritans Purse**
Citygate Ministries; Fort Myers
Calvary Baptist Church; Englewood
New Life Church; Punta Gorda

2,000 TABLES



1. meal



2. stories



3. prayer

Relationally Connected by Christ

Text pictures to
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Don't Lose Heart!

2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-4:18

The church in Corinth expected
Paul to be a certain way...
and he failed to meet
their expectations.
They wanted a
“rock star apostle.”

The result was that there were some (many?) in the church who were simply writing Paul off. They totally disrespected his leadership & authority.

They thought he was timid.

2 Corinthians 10:1-2

“By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am ‘timid’ when face to face with you, but ‘bold’ toward you when away!

I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.”

They thought he was unimpressive.

2 Corinthians 10:7-10

"You are judging by appearances...
I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten
you with my letters. For some say, 'His letters
are weighty and forceful, but in person
he is unimpressive and his speaking
amounts to nothing.'"

They didn't think he was a very
good preacher.

2 Corinthians 11:5-6

"I do not think I am in the least inferior to those
'super-apostles.' I may indeed be untrained as a
speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have
made this perfectly clear to you in every way."

Paul is defending himself...
while at the same time
pointing them (us) to the power
of the Gospel, and their (our)
true calling in Christ.

1. Life isn't easy.

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

"The life and work of a genuine apostle of Jesus the Messiah really is a glorious thing, even though it doesn't look like it to them."

N.T. Wright

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

³ “We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path,
so that our ministry will not be discredited.

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves
in every way: in great endurance; in troubles,
hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments
and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and
hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and
kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;
in truthful speech and in the power of God;

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

⁷ with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”

Paul is telling them not to be fooled by those “Super-Apostles” whose hair never gets messed up, who are never out of breath, and who always seem to have it all together. That’s just not reality.

Life can be really, really difficult
at times. And that's OK.

God is still good.

And He has created us
for a purpose.

2. We are all called to a
ministry far beyond ourselves.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

We are ministers of the
New Covenant.

2. We are all called to a
ministry far beyond ourselves.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

The Old Covenant was glorious, but incomplete. Moses did the best he could. But all the law could do was show people where they sinned. It couldn't save people, or empower them to walk in obedience.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

⁷ “Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

¹⁰ “For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.

And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.”

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Paul is talking about us. Our lives.
Our ministry. Our calling.

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And what is this hope?

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

13

"We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

God is using all of the really
hard stuff in life to make
us look more like Jesus.

**3. So we can't give up
or lose heart!**

2 Corinthians 4

2 Corinthians 4

¹ Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4

⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."

Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to Himself.

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

God never promised that
life would be easy.

It certainly wasn't easy for Paul.

It's not going to be easy for us.

However...

God is with us.

His Spirit lives in us.

Our weakness brings Him glory.

We are living for an eternal reward.

"I keep reminding people that everyone wants a rags to riches testimony, but no one wants to go through what it takes to get that testimony. The only reason that the grass is greener is because other places have already waded through the manure to get where they are."

Pastor Rob

Don't lose heart.

God is faithful, you can trust Him.

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

