

**2 Corinthians**  
**Verses 4:13-18**  
**Eternity View**  
**July 24, 2011**

**I. What do you want to remember the next time you feel discouraged?**

**II. Affliction to Glory**

**2 Cor 4:13-15**

**13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, 14 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 in his presence. 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.**

**NIV**

Apparently, the 4:13 quotation is from Psalm 116:10, but from the Septuagint. The Septuagint is much different from the traditional Hebrew text.

**Psa. 116:10**

**I believed when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."**

**(NAU)**

Paul has already talked about his troubles in this book. They would seem to be quite consistent with Psalm 116. Psalm 116 deals with affliction that would appear consistent with some of the things that have happened to Paul. Apparently Paul is saying that his affliction and faith go hand in hand. Remember 4:8-12 deals with his affliction.

Affliction and faith in this life lead to the assurance of our resurrection and therefore to our thanksgiving. Our thanksgiving is for the glory of God.

1 Cor. 4:13-15 is also an introduction or beginning for the important passages at the end of Chapter 4 and then all of Chapter 5. Why is this introduction important in understanding what follows?

**III. Momentary Problems/Eternal Glory**

**2 Cor 4:16-18**

**16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

**NIV**

Throughout this part of Scripture uses contrasts to make his point:

**Earthly**

**Heavenly**

**Scripture**

1. Outward man	Inner man	(4:16)
2. Wasting away	Being renewed	(4:16)
3. Momentary	Eternal	(4:17, 18)
4. Troubles	Glory	(4:17)
5. What can be seen	What cannot be seen	(4:18)
6. Earthly tent	Building from God	(5:1)
7. Destroyed	Eternal	(5:1)
8. Stripped naked	Clothed	(5:2-4)
9. Mortal	Life	(5:4)
10. Preparation	What is to come	(5:5)
11. Sight	Faith	(5:7-9)
12. Home in the body	Away from the Lord	(5:7-9)

How can we hold to heavenly things while living in an earthly body?

#### Col. 3:1-2

**1** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

NIV

Why must we be afflicted now?

Why is “seen” and “unseen” important?

The point of our troubles should not diminish our faith or disillusion us. Problems and human limitations have several benefits:

- They remind us of Christ’s suffering for us.
- They keep us from pride.
- They cause us to look beyond this brief life, that is they bring dissatisfaction because of the woes of this life
- They prove our faith to others.
- They give God the opportunity to demonstrate his power.
- They bring an eternal reward.

### III. Eagerly Awaiting: Rom. 8:18-21

#### Rom 8:18-21

**18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **19** The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

NIV

Verse 18 As we look at verses 17/18 and other verses that support them in other parts of the Bible, we see some of the greatest of God’s

promises for us in this life. The promise is that even though it might seem difficult to follow God, the reward is far greater.

Verse 18 While we might participate in suffering for Jesus, such that our suffering is inconsequential compared to the glories of eternity with God.

Verse 19 “Eager expectation” is a great term (one word in Greek) for us to contemplate. “Wait” is another long compound word in the Greek; it is used three times in this section (8:19, 8:23, 8:25), but translated differently. The NIV translates it as:

Rom. 8:19 Wait

Rom8:23 Eagerly wait

Rom8:25 Wait

According to Louw and Nida, it means to await eagerly or expectantly for some future event. So wait and eager expectation have an overlap in meaning, thereby emphasizing the meaning.

What does it mean to eagerly wait for something? What does Paul want us to eagerly wait for? Why?

Verse 20-21 At this point, we live in a world that has also fallen. As Rom 5:12 points out, Adam’s sin has affected our entire environment. We see this also from:

**Gen 3:17**

**17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.**

#### **IV. What Does Eternity Mean to You?**

**Ecc 3:11.**

**11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**

**NIV**

What can you do to “fathom” eternity?

#### **V. Closing Comment**

It is easy to lose heart and quit. We have all faced problems in our relationships or in our work that have caused us to want to think about laying down the tools and walking away. Instead of giving up when persecution wore him down. Paul allowed the Holy Spirit to strengthen him with (Eph. 3:16). Do not let fatigue, pain, or criticism force you off the job. Renew your commitment to serving Christ.

#### **VI. Next Time: Living with God**

For next week’s session, consider the difference between heaven and earth. Why are you on this earth? What will you do in heaven? How are the two related?