



# SECOND CORINTHIANS



*The Comfort of God FOR and THROUGH His People*

Part 2I—"Affliction & the Eternal Weight of Glory"—7 April 2024

## Introduction: The Burden of Affliction

"burden"—βάρος (baros)—(1) Used in relation to the experience of something as oppressive or burdensome (metaph. "heavy") such as afflictions of the body or soul (or mind i.e. dejection, depression, misery).

(2) A high point in a scale evaluation; "fullness"

The afflictions and hardships that Paul and his companions experienced had been truly burdensome. And yet, they have maintained an attitude of faith and trust in Christ and remain encouraged because they have seen His work in and through them. The Corinthians should recognize this attitude towards suffering can characterize all believers who have their hope in Christ.

**Main Point:** Hope for the \_\_\_\_\_ because of the eternal reward that awaits believers allows us to continue to trust the Lord and faithfully proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of the sufferings of this present life.

## The Faith We Believe & Proclaim—2 Corinthians 4:13-18

- Paul and his companions trust God and therefore they speak forth the truth concerning Christ for the good of others. (4:13-15)

### Observations:

1. Paul employs a quote from Psalm 116:9 (LXX Psa. 115:1), drawing a connection between their own experience and that of the psalmist.

⇒ The psalmist had suffered affliction (Psa. 116:3,6,8) but never lost \_\_\_\_\_ and continued to speak forth the truth publicly (Psa. 116:10,14,17-19).

2. They have more reason for confidence to speak than the psalmist because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

3. The future work of Christ that he anticipates is one that all believers will \_\_\_\_\_ in.

"Paul understands himself to be intimately joined to other Christians...His goal in the Corinthian correspondence is to create a sense of bonding and community...[and so] Paul seeks to build up the community. He reminds them that they share in the same suffering and comfort (1:5-7)...Those who name Christ as Lord may differ with one another and from one another, but they will not be separated from one another before God."  
—David Garland

4. Paul's sufferings and his ministry of proclamation are ultimately for God's \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.  
*"as grace extends"* *"it may increase thanksgiving"*

**Key Point:** As we find the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ in our suffering, there is opportunity to share with others our \_\_\_\_\_ of His goodness and of the hope that we have in Him.

- Because of these things, they remain encouraged because the glory of what lies ahead is far greater than the difficulties they face in the present. (4:16-18)

1. Hope for the future is the source of their encouragement in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"we do not lose heart"*

2. They do not lose heart because of the \_\_\_\_\_ that suffering can have on the “inner self.”  
*“the outer self”* *“wasting away”*

*“the inner self”*

*“being renewed”*

“Paul’s mortal existence is constantly wasting away and rushing headlong towards death. Paul’s inner existence, united with Christ, is always being renewed and proceeding towards ever increasing glory (3:18;4:11).”—David Garland

3. They do not lose heart because the sufferings of the present cannot be compared to the glories of the future.

*The “\_\_\_\_\_” of the Present*

*The “\_\_\_\_\_” to Come*

*“light”*

*“eternal”*

*“momentary”*

*“weight”*

“His choice of the expression ‘the weight of glory’ may be influenced by the fact that in Hebrew ‘weight’ and ‘glory’ come from the same root *kbd*. It is because the coming ‘glory’ is so ‘weighty’ that the present ‘affliction’ seems so ‘slight’..., just as the eternity of the coming ‘glory’ makes the ‘affliction’ seem ‘momentary.’ It is not simply that the ‘glory’ is the compensation for the ‘affliction’ [cf. Rom. 8:18]... rather, the ‘glory’ is the product of the ‘affliction,’ produced in measure ‘beyond all comparison’...”—F.F. Bruce

4. What they are \_\_\_\_\_ on is central to not losing heart.

*“looking”*—σκοπέω (*skopeō*)—to pay careful attention to, look (out) for, notice. The noun form is translated as “goal” or “mark.”

(−) *“things that are seen”* → *“transient”*

(+) *“things that are unseen”* → *“eternal”*

**Key Point:** Maintaining a proper \_\_\_\_\_ on ourselves and on life itself is vital if we are not to lose heart in the midst of suffering and affliction.

Ecc. 1:14-15—<sup>14</sup>*I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.*  
<sup>15</sup>*What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.*

Rom. 8:24-25—<sup>24</sup>*For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?*  
<sup>25</sup>*But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

## Concluding Thoughts

- I. It is the Lord Jesus who makes \_\_\_\_\_ the burdens of this life.

Matt. 11:28,30—<sup>28</sup>*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...*<sup>30</sup>*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

2. To rightly consider the glories that are ahead, we look to the glories of the risen \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Cor. 3:18—And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.



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**Key Point:** As we find the Lord faithful in our suffering, there is opportunity to share with others our testimony of His goodness and of the hope that we have in Him.

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