

Lesson 8
The Nature of Christ's Ministers
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

I. The General Principle (4:7)

A. The carrier of the treasure (4:7a)

- Mortal men have been entrusted with _____.

B. The purpose (4:7b)

- God demonstrates _____ by using mortal men.

Question: We often assume that our weakness will hinder the gospel and detract from it. On the contrary, how does our weakness reveal God's power?

II. The Circumstances of Paul's Ministry (4:8-9)

A. Human weakness

- Paul illustrates their weakness through _____ they faced.

B. Divine enablement

- Paul demonstrates that _____ in spite of their weaknesses.

III. The Principle Restated (4:10-12)

A. The message of death and life (4:10)

1. The message they carry (4:10a)

- Paul stated that they carried the _____.

2. The purpose (4:10b)

- They carried this message in order to _____.

B. The principle (4:11)

1. The nature of their ministry (4:11a)

- Paul stated that as he ministered he constantly _____.

2. The purpose (4:11b)

- He faced those difficult circumstances to demonstrate _____.

C. The principle restated (4:12)

- Through human weakness, _____ is demonstrated.

Question: How does the experience of “always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake” allow the life of Jesus to be revealed in our mortal bodies?

IV. The Spirit of Faith (4:13-18)

A. Paul’s Confidence (4:13)

- Paul could speak of his sufferings because he was confident that _____.

B. The basis for his confidence (4:14)

- Paul’s confidence was based upon _____.
- Because of Christ’ resurrection, he knew he would _____.

C. The benefit of Paul’s suffering (4:15)

- Paul suffered for the sake of _____ and the glory of _____.

D. Continued confidence (4:16)

- Paul continued in spite of his weaknesses because of _____.

E. The nature of the affliction (4:17)

- Paul understood that affliction was _____.
- Paul stated that the coming glory was _____.

F. The eternal perspective (4:18)

- Paul’s focus was the eternal, not _____.