

DON'T LOSE HEART

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

THE PRIVILEGE OF MINISTRY

4:1-6

- Paul understood the profound gift of the gospel and the honor of being its emissary.
- Paul openly shared his approach to ministry, marked by authenticity and Christ-centeredness.
- God, and God alone, opens blind eyes and hearts to the light of His glory.

*Identify ways you get discouraged and plan your response.
_____. The gospel is worth it.*

THE POWER FOR MINISTRY

4:7-13

- Through multiple paradoxes and great difficulty, God highlights His power to bring life from suffering and death.
- By spiritual sight and faith, the treasure of Jesus can appear brighter and richer over time.

*Look for Jesus in the paradox and pain.
_____. Jesus is with you and for you.*

THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE MINISTER (YOU!)

4:16-18

- The pain of life and ministry is paradoxically both heavy and light at the same time.
- Keeping an eternal outlook propels us to persevere.

*Repeatedly redirect your mind and heart to eternal realities, not just temporary ones.
_____. The best really is yet to come.*

Luke 18:1

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Revelation 21:23

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."