

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 7, 2010

No Quitting
2 Corinthians 4:8-9

What things, according to 2 Corinthians 4:1-18, did Paul endure while boldly proclaiming and defending the message of the new covenant that manifested his no-quit attitude?

The first thing that Paul endured that manifested his no-quit attitude was rejection (2 Corinthians 4:1-6).

The second thing that Paul endured that manifested his no-quit attitude was a variety of different sufferings (2 Corinthians 4:7-18).

God gave us the treasure of the gospel and commanded us to share it with the world even though we are weak so that there would be no question about whose power was accomplishing the work (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, used four different paradoxes from his own life to illustrate how his weakness as an earthen vessel left no doubt about where the power for accomplishing the work of the gospel came from.

Paul was afflicted, but not crushed (2 Corinthians 4:8).

The word “afflicted” (THLIBO) comes from a verb that means “to pressure.”

The verb “to crush” (STENOCHOREO) means to be confined to a narrow or tight place.

Paul was perplexed, but not despairing (2 Corinthians 4:8).

The word “perplexed” comes from the Greek verb (APOREO) that means, “to be at a loss.”

The word “despairing” comes from a Greek verb (EKAPOREO) that means, “to be utterly at loss.”

Paul was persecuted, but not forsaken (2 Corinthians 4:9).

The word “persecuted” (DIOKO) means “to pursue” or “to hunt.”

When Paul said that he was “not forsaken” he meant that while he was being persecuted or “pursued” the Lord never left him.

Paul was struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:9).

The word “struck down” (KATABALLO) means to be struck down as with a weapon or to be thrown down as in a wrestling match.

The word “destroyed” (APOLLUMI) could also be translated “ruined,” “lost” or even “killed.”

May God give us the grace to understand that our weakness provides the opportunity for the surpassing greatness of God’s power to shine forth brightly in our ongoing bold proclamation of the gospel of Christ.