

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 21, 2010

No Quitting!
2 Corinthians 4:10-12

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).

In 2 Corinthians 4:10-11, Paul declared to the Corinthians that his experience of power in the midst of his weakness, as we saw in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, was analogous to the death and resurrection of Christ.

The word rendered “dying” (NEKROSIS) pictures putrefying flesh that is stiff, swollen, and eaten away and can refer to either the process of dying or the final condition of death. In this context this very stark word is used to refer to the process of dying.

Paul in verse 10, rather than talking about his sufferings, or in other words his dying, specifically chose to speak about the dying of Christ.

Paul could make the transition from speaking about what was true of himself in verses 8-9 and then go on to speak about those very same things as being true of Christ in verse 10, because he saw himself as an extension of Christ’s life (Galatians 2:20).

When Paul spoke of carrying about in his body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus might be manifested in his body in verse 10, he was obviously speaking of the life of Jesus in terms of His resurrection power.

The life of Jesus and His resurrection power was manifested in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 when Paul in the midst of his sufferings was not overwhelmed.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:12, concluded 2 Corinthians 4:10-11 by pointing out to the Corinthians that death worked in him in all that he suffered, so that life, or in other words the resurrection power of God, might be at work in them.

May God give us the grace to look at our suffering in the midst of our weakness as an opportunity to not only fill in what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ but also as an opportunity to display Christ and the power of His resurrection.

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