Valley Bible Church Sermon Notes for April 4, 2010

No Quitting! 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

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 <u>no-quit</u> 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 <u>sufferings</u> (2 Corinthians 4:7-18).

Based on 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, Paul spoke boldly because of what he believed about the <u>future</u>, even though speaking the gospel boldly meant that he would be continually delivered over to death.

Paul believed that the future <u>resurrection</u> of all true believers would result in them being presented to Christ (2 Corinthians 4:14-15).

When Paul referred to "our outer man," he was referring to what <u>others</u> saw when they looked at him.

When Paul referred to "our inner man," he was referring to that part of a true believer that, though unseen, is being gradually <u>transformed</u> into conformity to Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:17, viewed his present <u>suffering</u> as brief in duration and trifling in comparison to what God had in store for himself and all believers.

When Paul spoke of not choosing to look at the things, which are seen or temporary, he was referring specifically of his <u>afflictions</u>.

When Paul spoke of the things, which were not seen or eternal, he was speaking specifically of that future time at his resurrection when he would be ultimately transformed into <u>God's likeness</u> as manifested in Christ.

May God give us the grace to continually focus on the glorious certainty of our future so that we might speak <u>the gospel boldly</u> and not lose heart when various sufferings come our way.

Valley Bible Church 3347 West Avenue J Lancaster, California 93536 www.valleybible.net