



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Christian, what do you know?

May 24, 2020

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. 15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

1. Give an example of something that people thought they knew about the Coronavirus, which is now being called into question.

Originated in a wet market. Or a lab

China helped the situation. Or exacerbated it

It will kill 2 million in US. Or 100,000

Social distancing helps. Or hurts

Gloves are required. Or not

Lots of things we didn't/don't know!

2. Who originally wrote the words quoted in v. 13? What was his point? David in Psalm 116. David had been in a difficult situation. He called on God in faith, and God rescued him. David responded by praising God.

3. What application does v. 13 have for your life?

When God works faith in our hearts, we can't help but tell others about what God has done. David did it; Paul did it; so do we.

4. In v. 14, what three things does Paul say we know as Christians?

1. God raised Jesus from the dead

2. God will raise us from the dead

3. Jesus will "present" us to the Father as his holy people.

5. For the concept of "presenting" us in God's presence, see Ephesians 5:25-27. *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

Jesus makes us "presentable" as his beautiful bride by cleansing us of our sins.

6. In v. 15, "all this" refers to Paul's proclamation of the gospel in spite of persecution (cf. 2 Cor. 4:7-11). What does Paul say is the positive result(s) of "all this"? 1. More people got to hear the gospel; 2. More people gave thanks to God; 3. God gets the glory (God turns a hard situation for the disciples into something good for many!)

7. Where's the comfort in v. 16? Where's the warning?

Comfort: God keeps our New Man healthy with the gospel in Word and Sacrament, even though our body is wearing out.

Warning: Don't get too attached to your body; earthly life is only temporary.

8. What is Paul not saying in v. 18?

Not: Earthly troubles earn us a place in glory.

Better: God uses troubles to "cultivate" us (prune us?) The faith that saves us will also bring with it a cross to carry.

9. What are "our light and momentary troubles?"

All earthly hardships, no matter how heavy they are (e.g. persecution, sickness, temptation, loss, pain, etc.) will seem light and momentary when compared to our eternal glory.

10. How/when might you use these verses in your devotional life? (e.g. When I'm...) feeling like life is hard; when a loved one is dying of cancer; when I'm tempted to fret over material things I have or don't have; when I worry about things I can't or don't know.