Heaven and Hurt

Justin Mock · 2 Corinthians 4:1–18

INTRODUCTION

- When we, or those we love, go through difficulties, those things, those bad times tend to make us want a world where those hardships don't exist.
- We understand that the trials and difficulties of this life have a deeper purpose than just merely being bad things.
- The pains and suffering of life don't simply cause us to want a future without them. They point us to a place where the bad things, the difficulties, the trials no longer exist.

1. Light From Darkness

- God is capable of bringing good from bad, blessing from struggle, light from darkness.
- "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." **(2 Corinthians 4:6)**
- It started with this very same concept: that God is capable and powerful enough to bring light from darkness. **(Genesis 1:1–4)**
- God can bring good from bad, blessing from trial, light from darkness without lifting a finger or breaking a sweat.
- Over and over again, God brings blessings through trials.
- Even Joseph acknowledges that they meant it for evil, but God worked it for good. **(Genesis 50)**

2. There Is a Purpose to Difficulties

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7–9

- "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." **(2 Corinthians 4:7)**
- "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." **(2 Corinthians 4:8–9)**
- God's power is on display when our weakness is on display.
- The survival of the truth continues to endure because it is the truth, not because we are great people.
- It is because God is powerful enough to overcome the trials, and the struggles, and the difficulties that we face.

3. Difficulties Are Proof That Good Is Coming

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

- The difficulties that we deal with in life are proof that good is coming … it is guaranteed, and it is on its way.

- “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.” **(2 Corinthians 4:16)**
- “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” **(2 Corinthians 4:17)**
- “For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” **(2 Corinthians 4:18)**
- This natural progression of the body aging and weakening should serve as a constant reminder that something better is coming.
- The eternal weight of glory that awaits us is so far beyond description that it will make our darkest, most difficult days seem light in comparison. **(Luke 14:26)**

THE CHALLENGE

Are you letting the evildoer use those things to destroy you, to distract you, to take you away from God, or will you let those things point you toward God, and His power, and the something coming that is better?

MY NOTES