

Hello. /We will begin the 17th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Today's message is from chapter 4. /The title of chapter 4 is "Ministry." /First, verses 1-6, be faithful ministers. /Second, verses 7-15, treasure in jars of clay. /Third, verses 16-18. The outer self and the inner self.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

/The verse says "therefore" because it continues from the word after 3:5. /It is about "the glory of the ministry of the gospel." /Because of this glory, ministers of the gospel may become proud. /On the other hand, because of their personal flaws or the criticism of other people, they may lose heart.

/Even still, in the text, the Apostle Paul says, "We do not lose heart." /Why does he say he does not lose heart? /The reason is God left to him the ministry of the gospel.

/God didn't give the ministry to him because Paul had exceptional power or knowledge. /God in his mercy gave to Paul this glorious ministry.

/Therefore, the ministry of preaching the gospel is founded in God's mercy. /God in his mercy gave us this ministry. /For this reason, God himself is at work. /We need to realize that God's mercy has left to us this ministry.

/Everyone who is in ministry has received his ministry by the mercy of God. /God didn't leave to Paul this ministry because Paul was Gamaliel's student.

/Paul wasn't given the ministry because of some letter of recommendation from the Council of Jerusalem or because of some certificate. /God's grace and mercy is what gave Paul his ministry. /Galatians 1:1 says that Paul became an apostle by the will of God.

/Then what kind of attitude must a person with this ministry have? /Verse 2 talks about three things. /First, we must renounce disgraceful and underhanded ways. /Second, we must refuse to practice cunning.

/Third, we must not tamper with God's word. /There is no one who has no disgraceful or underhanded ways. /Others may not know of them, but there are shameful things about me that my conscience knows.

/We need to renounce these things daily. /We need to get rid of our bad habits and sinfulness. /We must not practice cunning, but we must be sincere.

/We must not deceive others. /Paul preached the word of God as it is. /There is power in the gospel itself.

/Verse 3 says, “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.” / Paul preached the gospel, but there were those who didn’t accept it and those who opposed it.

/Because they are people who are perishing, they do not receive the gospel that Paul preached. /However, those who are predestined to have full confidence that the gospel that Paul preaches is the true gospel will receive the gospel. /Those who are chosen to receive eternal life will believe.

/Verse 4. /In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

/The verse says, “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers. /The “god of this world” is the devil. /John 12:31 calls the devil the “ruler of this world.”

/The devil is the supervisor of politics, authority, and darkness. /He is an evil spirit. This devil blinds the minds of unbelievers. /He makes their eyes lose their sight. /This prevents them from receiving the truth.

/He prevents the light of the gospel of glory from shining on them. /2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 says that those who refused to love the truth are deceived by the Satan. /God allows the devil to tempt those who do not believe in the truth or delight in the truth. /This is God’s discipline.

/Christ is the image of God. /Furthermore, Christ fully reveals the Father. /Jesus said, “I and the Father are one.” /John 10:30. /God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ are one. God is God of the Trinity.

/Therefore, whoever does not have the light of Christ does not have God. /Jesus said to Philip, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” John 14:9.

/Because God the Father is spirit, we cannot see him with our eyes. /Christ revealed to us the nature of God the Father.

/Verse 5 tells us what we preachers need to proclaim. /First, we need to proclaim that Christ Jesus is Lord. /Next, we need to proclaim that we, for Jesus, are servants of believers.

/It is wrong for someone who preaches the gospel to try to reveal himself or to lure believers to be on his side. /Whoever does this is proud and a thief. /For this reason, the Apostle Paul did not proclaim himself, but he testified that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

/Additionally, he proclaimed that he is a servant of the believers in Corinth. /Every preacher of the gospel must know that he is a servant of God and a servant of believers. /Believers, on the other hand, must respect the person as a servant from God and obey him. /They must do this because he is a messenger from God.

/Verse 6. /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.

/In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, he said, / “Let there be light,” and there was light. /In this way, while we were dead in trespasses and sin, while we were in darkness, God shone the spiritual light in our hearts.

/This is the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. /We can also call it the light of the gospel.

/Verses 7-15 are about treasure in jars of clay. /It says that we have this treasure in jars of clay. /What is this treasure? /First, the gospel is treasure, /and second, /the ministry of the gospel is treasure.

/The ministry that is brighter than the light of Moses’ face and has more glory is the ministry of the gospel. /Jars of clay are jars made of dirt. /They are easily broken, /and they are not worth much.

/Compared to gold, silver, and bronze plates, jars of clay are not that valuable. /They break easily. /We human beings are completely corrupt and weak. /We are worthless like jars of clay.

/But God gave to our lives, lives that are like jars of clay, the glorious and precious ministry of the gospel. /God left to us the truth that brings to life, /the truth that unites all things.

/He also gave to us the truth that fulfills salvation. /Why did he do this? /Why didn’t he leave the ministry of the gospel to those with more authority and power /but to us who are like weak jars of clay?

/Verse 7 tells us the reason. /It says, “To show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” /God gave the treasure to jars of clay /to make it known that the gospel movement happens because of God’s power.

/The gospel movement does not happen because of man’s wisdom and power. /The surpassing power belongs to God. /God chooses those in the world who are weak, lowly, despised, and foolish to carry out God’s great work of salvation. /1 Corinthians 1:27,28.

/Verses 8 and 9 teach us what the preacher of the gospel must do when he encounters difficulty.

/Verses 8-9. /We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

/The believer, though he may be afflicted in every way, will not be crushed. /We will not despair when we face trouble. /For example, Moses and the Israelites reached the Red Sea after they left Egypt. They could not move forward nor could they go back.

/At this time, the Israelites who did not have faith started to grumble, but Moses prayed to God. /God worked in an amazing way to defeat the Egyptian army at the Red Sea.

/The Israelites, because of God's power, crossed the Red Sea on dry land. /Therefore, the minister of the gospel must know that he must not despair when he is perplexed, know that he is persecuted but not forsaken, and know that he is struck down but not destroyed.

/Verse 10. /always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

/Paul suffered because of the gospel, sharing in Christ's suffering as he did the work of the gospel. / "Carrying in the body the death of Jesus" has two meanings. /First, it means I am responsible for killing Jesus.

/We need to know that we are responsible for killing Jesus. /When we do this, we will resent sin, /have a heart of repentance, /and be moved by the grace of redemption. /The life of Jesus will work within us.

/Next, it means we need to carry in our bodies the death of Jesus. /It means we carry the death of Jesus with our own bodies. /In other words, the believer, in persecution and suffering, walks the way of Jesus' death.

/By being afflicted and persecuted, we experience the death of Jesus with our bodies. The life of Jesus will be manifested in the believer who does this.

/Verse 11. /For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

/We believers must always give our bodies over to death for Jesus' sake and live in the life of Jesus. /When this happens, the life of Jesus will be manifested in us. /Let me explain in more detail. /If we encounter a situation in which we must die for Jesus, we need to be the first to go into that place.

/We need to be the first to walk down a path of suffering if it is suffering for Jesus. /We need to be the first to be persecuted if it is being persecuted for Jesus.

/That is what it means for our flesh to be used by Jesus, /and the life of Jesus is manifested in this person. /That is why Paul in verse 12 says, "So death is at work in us, but life in you."

/Paul always handed his life over to death and walked the way of death. /Because he did this, the work of the life of Christ was working in Paul. /Moreover, the work of life, along with the gospel, was passed on to the church of Corinth through Paul.

/What does it mean when it says “death is at work” in Paul? /It means Paul daily suffered for the proclamation of the gospel, that he walked the way of death. /On the other hand, it says that life is at work in the Corinthian church. /This means the gospel that Paul preached was accepted by the believers, and life was at work in them.

/Let me make it easier to understand. /The life of a pastor must first have life in order for him to save others. /If a pastor himself cannot walk the way of life, he cannot save others.

/Verse 13. /Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak,

/This verse quotes Psalm 116:10. /David, enduring great affliction, believed, and so he spoke. /Similarly, Paul, who has the same spirit of faith, speaks boldly.

/This faith keeps Paul from falling down. /Faith is believing in the word of truth. /It is being able to speak the truth you believe in in any hardship.

/In verse 14, /Paul has hope. /What hope is this? /It is the hope of resurrection. /Verse 14 says, “He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus.”

/Verse 15. /For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

/It says Paul did it all for the sake of believers. /However, the believers in Corinth did not realize this, but instead, they doubted Paul’s apostleship. /Why did Paul do everything for the sake of the believers in Corinth?

/He did it to glorify God. /In various hardships and suffering, /Paul preached the gospel to bring to many people the grace of salvation. /In turn, the ones who received salvation gave thanks to God and glorified him.

/Verses 16-18 are about the outer self and the inner self. /We people are made of an outer self and an inner self. /The outer self refers to the body. /The inner self is the spirit that is born again. /The flesh that must return to the dust when it dies is the outer self. /The spirit that is born again of the word and the Holy Spirit is the inner self.

/The subject of our personality is the inner self. /Through the word, the reborn spirit is renewed and reaches the maturity of Christ. /Though we grow old, our spirits prosper and are daily renewed.

/The outer self perishes, but because the inner self is renewed day by day, Paul does not lose heart. /Although he faced many hardships and much persecution, although his opponents criticized him, Paul did not lose heart because of these things.

/Paul says that God's mercy has given him his ministry. /He may walk the way of death, but the life of Christ works and flourishes in Paul and in believers.

/Because Paul had the truth he confidently believed in and had hope of resurrection, he did not lose heart. / He knew he was going to receive from the Lord the crown of glory in the future. /Everyone's outer self perishes.

/People of the flesh become weak due to persecution, slander, and external hardship. /No matter how healthy and beautiful a person may be, his appearance will fail. /But Paul's inner self is renewed day by day.

/When it says the inner self is renewed day by day, it means our born again spirits become renewed with the word of God. /When we grow in the truth and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our inner self is renewed. /The faith of having our inner self renewed is a living faith.

/Verses 17-18. /For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

/The verse says, "This light momentary affliction." /The affliction of this world is temporary. When the temporary passes, Christ will return to judge the sinful world. /Hebrews 10:37.

/Believers' affliction for Christ will result in an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. /The affliction of this world is extremely light compared to the glory that will be made known to us in the future.

/The glory we will receive in the future is eternal and beyond all comparison. /Romans 8:18. /We do not look to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. / "Things that are seen" are the things of reality, the things of the flesh.

/ "Things that are unseen" are of the Spirit, and they refer to God's kingdom and his righteousness. /The important thing to know is that what is seen is transient while what is unseen is eternal. /Therefore, we must work for the things that are eternal.

/Though we may lose things that are seen, we must daily work for what is unseen.

/We will continue with 2 Corinthians 5. /The title of chapter 5 is "Reconciliation." /First, verses 1-10. The tent of the body and our heavenly dwelling. /Second, verses 11-17. Live for Christ. /Third, verses 18-21, be reconciled.

/First, verses 1-10. The tent of the body and our heavenly dwelling.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

/ “The tent that is our earthly home” refers to the body. /People are made of the soul and the body. /Our bodies are the outer self. /The born again spirit is the inner self. /Our souls are the subject of our personality.

/A person’s soul wears the tent of the body, but when God takes the person’s soul, the soul leaves the tent of the body and enters heaven. /Then why are our bodies called a tent? /The reason is the body exists for a while and then crumbles apart.

/Peter, before his death, said, “I know that the putting off of my body will be soon.” /2 Peter 1:14. /When a person puts off the tent of his body, if the person is a believer, his soul immediately goes to heaven, but if the person is an unbeliever, his soul immediately goes to hell.

/The soul does not stay in the middle for a while and then go to heaven or hell. /If a believer puts off the tent of his body, his soul immediately returns to his home, heaven. / We must believe this and long for it.

/Abraham considered heaven to be his home, and he always longed for it. /Before we were born in this world, our souls did not exist. /We call heaven our home because God the Father is in heaven.

/Normally, the place where someone’s father dwells is his home. /Therefore, our lives in this world are lives of strangers. /We are beings who will return to our home. /If the tent of our body falls down, we enter our eternal home of heaven and live forever with God.

/Verse 2 says, “For in this tent we groan.” /Why do believers groan while they live in the tent of the body? /While we are in the flesh, our souls groan because our insides are still corrupt.

/We repent and groan to remove the corruption within us. /We also groan because of our weakness and imperfection. /Finally, we groan because we long to put on our heavenly dwelling.

/What is this heavenly dwelling? /It is to put on Jesus Christ. /Romans 13:14. /In other words, we carry out the work of salvation. /We become more like Jesus. /2 Peter 1:4 says that we become partakers of God’s nature.

/Ephesians 4:24 says we put on a new self. /Romans 13:12 says we put on the armor of Christ. /All of these verses are expressed differently, but they say the same thing. /To long to put on our heavenly dwelling is to become more like the image of Jesus.

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/Verse 3. /if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.

/If the believer does not put on the heavenly dwelling, he is found naked before God.
/Believers receive salvation by believing in Jesus, but it is like salvation through fire. /1
Corinthians 3:12-15.

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/Paul groans because he does not want to be found naked before God.

/Verse 4. /For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we
would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be
swallowed up by life.

/While we live in this world, we groan so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by
life. /The verse says, “Not that we would be unclothed,” and this does not mean we put
off the tent of the body.

/To “be further clothed” means we are clothed in the image of Christ. /Paul groaned in
the world like he was burdened because he wanted to become like the image of Christ.
/Romans 8:12,13.

/Verse 4 also says, “So that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.” / “What is
mortal” refers to living in the ways of the body. / “Life” is the spiritual work of life. /In
other words, it is meaningless for us to live in the ways of the body. /We live when we
live in spiritual life.

/Therefore, Paul wanted the work of spiritual life to defeat living in the ways of the body
and go before God. /When the born again spirit follows the word of God in the Holy
Spirit, the spirit lives.

/It may be easier to live in the ways of the body, but there is no life. /The martyr is
someone who has the life of his body swallowed by the life of the eternal.

/Verse 5 says that God has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. /The believer has salvation
because of the power of God. /Because God gave us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee, we
are able to be courageous in suffering and move forward in faith.

/Verse 6 says, “We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the
Lord.” /When we live in in our bodies in this world, we do not see the Lord, but we have
a relationship in faith.

/In verses 7-10, Paul hopes for four things. /First, in verse 7, Paul wants to walk by
faith. /Next, in verse 8, he wishes to be away from the body and dwell with Christ.

/Paul wanted to leave his body and live forever with Christ. /Philippians 1:23. /In verse 9, Paul, whether in life or death, makes it his aim to please the Lord. /The person who lives in faith is fine with both leaving this world and living in this world.

/In verse 10, Paul hopes to be complimented and rewarded at the judgment seat.

/This concludes the 17th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.