

Date 4/21/13
Text 2 Cor. 4:10
Title The Life of Jesus Revealed
Theme In a world shrouded in death see Jesus
Communion Jeff
Benediction Psalms 34:8, Isaiah 26:3
“May you continuously taste and see that the LORD is good; May He bless those who take refuge in him. May the LORD Himself keep you in perfect peace and steadfast in heart as you trust in Him. May you take hope in Jesus and never be put to shame.”

I. Introduction

2 Cor. 4:10

“We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

A. Boston marathon - We are surrounded by death and we need hope.

II. Background

A. Corinth

1. Cosmo, affluent, diverse, materialistic, status conscience, pagan.

B. Paul's purpose

1. 1:12, 24 Stand firm by faith in this world

C. Context

Paul's teaching in 4:7-10 fall in the middle of a much more lengthy description of Apostolic Mission of the Church.

1. The Great Digression: The Apostolic Ministry 2:14 - 7:4

a) Our Great Call

(1) “We all” are little “a” apostle: “one sent out”

(a) Rom. 10:15

“And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written,
“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” “

(b) Rom. 16:7

“Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.”

(2) The Grandeur and Superiority of our call 2:14 - 4:6

(a) The Distinct Privilege of our call 2:14-17

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. 15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? 17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.”

(b) The Surpassing Glory of the Call 3:7-11

“Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9 If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!”

III. Text 4:10 (referencing 4:7-12)

A. “WE ALWAYS CARRY AROUND IN OUR BODY” - We All live in a Dying State

1. “We All” - Suffering is a universal experience of suffering
 - a) No respecter of persons
 - b) Death, pain, grief, disease, loss.
 - c) “we who are alive...” v. 11
2. “In Our Body” - The unique nature of corporate suffering
 - a) Grammar
 - (1) 6 pl. pronouns. Paul uses “we”, “our”, or “us” but no singular pronouns. He is making very clear that our suffering never happens in isolation.
 - (2) 8 sg. nouns. Paul strengthens this emphatically by using “death”, “life”, and “body” in the singular form 7 times.
 - b) Members of ONE body 1 Cor. 12:26-27
“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.”

B. “THE DEATH OF JESUS”

1. The Dying State. There is no getting out of the state.
 - a) “are carrying” v. 10
 - b) We are pottery - fragile and non-recyclable v. 7
 - c) “being given over to” v. 11
2. Living as Jesus lived = Dying.
 - a) This is the suffering “in the service” of Christ, not to be confused with the daily mortification of the flesh (Gal. 5:24) or the justifying unification in Christ’s atoning death (Rom. 6:3-5).
 - b) Paul goes into great detail about the specific things he has suffered (2 Cor. 11:23-28) “partaking in the sufferings of Christ” (Phil 3:10). To which Paul is also referring in 2 Cor. 1:7.
 - (1) The “being given over to” is itself the “carrying” of the death of Christ.
 - (2) Paul’s rich theology of suffering was forged on the anvil of his own experience of “the sufferings of Christ.”

C. “IN ORDER THAT ... MAY BE REVEALED” - God’s Paradoxical Plan

1. The Plan - To save the world through the death of Jesus
 - a) The Mission of Jesus - To Die 1 Pet. 1:19-20
“but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God”
 - b) The Church Mission - Display Christ
2. The Paradoxical Revelation - Life NOT through, or after, but in death vv. 8,9
 - a) Surrounded BUT not surrendering
 - b) At a loss, BUT not totally
 - c) Hounded by enemies, BUT not left to their mercy
 - d) Knocked down, BUT not out.
3. The Purpose - To show the awesome power of God v. 7
“We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us”

- D. “THE LIFE OF JESUS IN OUR BODY” The Treasure of Jesus’ Life
1. The Life of Jesus - Experiencing His Grace; Growing in Christ-likeness
 2. The Proof in Life - Experiencing His Power: Enduring through trials
 3. The Promise of Life - Experiencing his Hope: Heaven is only closer!
 4. “In You” - The outward nature of Christ’s appearing. (“we”/“our” to “you”)

IV. Consider this:

- A. How are you walking through your suffering?
 1. Are you aware?
 2. Do you hide it?
 3. Do you take it to God?
 4. Are you suffering as one body?
- B. How is Christ being revealed through your suffering?
 1. What does the world see when they see you?
 2. Are you growing in Christ-likeness?
 3. Are you experiencing God’s power?
 4. Do you have have hope?