

Sermon: **Reflecting God in adversity**

II Corinthians 4: 7-18

V7 Jars of clay: This is a reference to the vessels the temple priest use to use for certain types of sacrifices. It is used because it is readily expendable and is broken when it becomes ritually unclean.

(Geneses 2: 7 God making mankind it uses the imagery of a potter.)

The main point: “to show this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”
(web site: Godsaidmansaid.com)

Hard pressed / but not crushed:

In the Greek these words virtually synonymous, even in this same letter. Both terms basically have to deal with being pressed in, constricted, put under pressure. So in the present verse we may render it as “*under pressure but not crushed.*”

Perplexed / but not in despair:

The word in which both participles are taken means “at a loss.” Uncertain how to act – thus perplexed. When the prefix is added to the verb in the Greek the meaning is intensified “perplexed to the final degree.” Hence this verse can best be rendered “*Bewildered we are never out of our wit’s end.*”

Persecuted / but not abandoned:

This phrase believed to be taken directly out of the sports arena means “pursued but not overtaken.” But we must refrain from this in light of the passages that God says we will never be forsaken. It is more likely, then, that Paul reference to steadfastness of God, and that one should interpret as “not forsaken by God.”

Paul basically means that “*though pursued in a footrace, he never remained at the rear.*”

Struck down / but not destroyed:

The first verb has a wide range of meaning. It could mean to be overthrown, laid low by a blow or a weapon, abused or bullied, cast off or rejected. Stricken with an illness, or even slain. The second verb could have a meaning of ultimate destruction. It has already been used twice in reference to those who do not receive the gospel and their ultimate destruction. “*Beat down, but not ultimately destroyed.*”

Our bodies may be burnt, tortured, but nothing you can do to the current flesh can change the eternal significance that we are now resurrected eternal beings in Christ !!

Basically life happens. There will be things that try and destroy us.

This being renewed day by day sometimes is misunderstood. It is not a gradual progressive thing. It is not something that happens little by little.

It is a complete refreshing everyday. Like a do over button pushed everyday.