



# Leader

8/28 - 2 Corinthians 4

## Theology Refresher - God's Eternality

God has no beginning or end. He has no succession of events in his own being. Therefore, all of past history is, to God, as if it just happened. And as the one who created and rules over time, God uses time for his own purposes (Grudem).

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Read Chapter 4 together. Let's now look specifically at verse 7. What is the treasure that Paul is speaking of? In what sense are we "jars of clay"?

The treasure we have is the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Jars of clay" is a common metaphor in the ancient world for human weakness. God has chosen us (weak vessels) to carry the most powerful message in the world. [God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong - 1 Cor. 1:27 / But the Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" - 1 Cor. 12:9]

3. Paul says in verse 16 that "our outer self is wasting away, and our inner self is being renewed." What is Paul communicating to us here?

Our physical bodies are finite and temporal, but our spirit is eternal and is being transformed and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is not to say that Paul is

not concerned with our physical bodies (1 Cor. 6:15), rather it emphasizes the contrast of the temporary and the eternal; weakening vs. strengthening in the Spirit.

4. Paul continues to emphasize the "seen and the unseen." When you think about your daily life and your interactions with people, would you say that you ever give thought to the "unseen"? How could we wisely consider the "unseen" more often?

Paul consistently had an eternal perspective. He dwelled on what *would be*, not what *was*. Colossians 3:2 says, set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. People are made in the image of God and all of them are eternal beings; for those who believe, Heaven; for those who do not believe, Hell (Col. 2:16 - "to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life").

5. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?

[Dialogue]

6. How would you briefly summarize this passage? How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
  - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
  - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
  - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

## PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?  
[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.

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Resources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Christian Beliefs: twenty basics every christian should know*. Edited by Elliot Grudem. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005, pg. 24-25.