

“We Do Not Lose Heart”

2 Cor. 4:1,16

Introduction:

- A. We as Christians, unless very strong or very weak, sometimes lose heart.
 - 1. Disappointments.
 - a. With people (cf. Jno. 6:66,67; 2 Cor. 12:15)
 - b. With results of work. (Gal. 4:11).
 - 2. Weariness.
 - a. Of constant struggle & work (2 Cor. 6:4-10).
 - b. Of “sameness.”
 - 3. Apparent advantages of others: prosperity of wicked and denominations.
- B. We as Christians, like Paul have two great reasons not to lose heart:

Discussion:

II. The *Ministry* That We Have in Christ. (4:1; - “gospel” - v.4; “treasure”- v.7)

- A. The ministry of full revelation. (4:4-7).
 - 1. Removes veil of O.T. (3:6-17).
 - 2. Has nothing to hide. (4:2-4).
 - 3. Exposes sin for what it is. (cf. Jno. 3:18-21; Eph. 5:11-13).
- B. The ministry of full reconciliation. (5:17-20).
 - 1. Reconciled through pardon.
 - 2. Pardoned through obedience. (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
- C. The ministry of full transformation. (3:18; Cf. Rom. 12:2).

III. The *Assurance* That We Have in Christ. (4:16 - 5:8).

- A. Makes daily problems seem light. (4:8-10,17).
 - 1. Become stepping stones rather than stumbling stones.
 - 2. Become instruments of victory rather than defeat. (vs. 12,17)
- B. Gives daily confidence that we need. (v. 16).
 - 1. To speak convictions. (4:13-14).
 - 2. To face death and judgment. (4:11,16; 5:8-10).
 - 3. To look beyond temporal to the eternal. (4:17,18).
- C. Motivates us to daily obedience. (5:8-10).
 - 1. To be saved. (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:15,16).
 - 2. To be stay saved. (1 John 1:7-9; 2:1; 1 Cor. 15:58).

Conclusion:

- A. If we do not really believe we have truth, light, and gospel - say so and make adjustments.
- B. If we do really believe we are standing in gospel - Let us lift up our eyes, shore up our spirits, quit feeling sorry for ourselves and act like people on their way to heaven.