- We are afflicted in every way but <u>not crushed</u>. (Pressures/Emotionally)
- Perplexed, but <u>not driven to despair</u>. (Perplexities/Psychologically)
- > Persecuted, but not forsaken. (People/Socially)
- Struck down but <u>not destroyed</u>. (Problems/Spiritually)
- Our daily <u>dying to self</u> allows the life of Jesus to be revealed in us. (v10-12; Matt.16:24-26)

<u>Application:</u> Your weakness is not a disqualification—it's God's stage for <u>displaying His power</u>.

GOD'S GLORY IN OUR SUFFERING. v13-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. (v17)

- Faith gives us the courage to keep <u>declaring</u> God's goodness, even through suffering. (v13; Ps.116:10)
- We believe that the God who raised Jesus will also <u>raise us</u> (v14; Rom.8:11)
- Our endurance brings grace to others and glory to God. (v15)
- Outwardly we may be wasting away, but our temporary pain is helping us <u>inwardly</u> to become more and more eternally glorious. (v16-18; 1Pet.1:7)

<u>Application:</u> Don't measure God's greatness by how easy life feels—measure it by the glory (<u>Character</u>) He's producing in you.

Growing Notes

When was a time you felt "fragile" or overwhelmed — yet saw God's strength sustain you? Read 2Cor.4:1-18 and review sermon notes. What is this priceless treasure we have in jars of clay (Matt.13:44)?

How does God's Light help us in our Darkness (v1-6)? How does God's Power help us in our Weakness (v7-12)? How does God's Glory help us in our Suffering (v13-18)? Where do you most need God's light, power, or glory to show up in your current "jar of clay"? Pray.



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NOV 13 SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS THURS.7PM FAMILY ROOM

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James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.



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Ray Davis

2025

"Treasure in Jars of Clay" (2Cor.4:1-18)

Big Idea: God places His priceless treasure — the light, power, and glory of Christ — in fragile human vessels so that the world sees His greatness through our weakness.

Key Verses: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." (v7) "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." (v16)

"Lose heart" = giving up, or despair/hopelessness (not sorrow).

WHAT IS THIS PRICELESS TREASURE?

GOD'S LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS. v1-6

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. (v6)

- We don't lose heart because ministry is a **mercy** —we serve by grace, not by merit. (v1)
- We proclaim truth plainly, not deceitfully—God's light exposes what's hidden. (v2)
- The god of this world blinds minds, but the gospel opens eyes to see Jesus' glory. (v3-4)
- We don't preach ourselves but Christ as Lord, and ourselves as servants—His light shines through humble hearts. (v5-6)

Application: When you feel surrounded by darkness — confusion, fear, doubt — remember: the **light** of Christ is already shining within you. His presence can illuminate any situation, or heart.

GOD'S POWER IN OUR WEAKNESS. v7-12

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (v7)

Life's difficulties **cannot** destroy us: (v8-9; Ps.34:19)

[&]quot;Inner self" = Character (Holiness/Wholeness/Christlikeness).

[&]quot;Being renewed day by day" = new strength/vigor is given and growing.