



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
March 15, 2026

next week: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read the passage out loud together. Remember the context for this letter. What stands out to you? Do you identify with anything in the text?
2. What hardships are being described? In vss. 8-9 what tensions are there? Why is he talking about this?
3. In vss. 10-12, what role does suffering play in the life of a disciple? How is life and death being talked about in this text?
4. In vss. 13-15, what future reality does Paul bring up? What effect does this have on him?
5. What comparison is being given in vss 16-18? In what ways is Paul personally familiar with this truth?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

6. Why do you think God so often chooses weak or ordinary people (“jars of clay”) to carry the gospel rather than impressive or powerful people?
7. The sermon said confusion comes when we focus on the physical container instead of the spiritual treasure. Where do people commonly make this mistake in ministry or Christian life?
8. What present hardships tempt you away from being in your right mind about suffering? Are there voices about Christian expectations that you need to turn down or off altogether because they are lying to you?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

9. The passage reminds us that God’s power is displayed through weakness. Where might God be asking you to trust Him despite feeling inadequate? Be quiet and listen for his leading in this.
10. When life becomes confusing or painful, what practical ways can you shift your focus from present circumstances to future hope?
11. The sermon warned that both self-confidence and self-loathing can be forms of pride. How can you practice true humility that focuses on Christ instead of yourself?
12. What is one current hardship, confusion, or discouragement in your life where you need God’s clarity? Pray over one another about these.
13. Verse 18 calls us to look at what is unseen rather than what is seen. What habits could help you keep eternity in view during ordinary daily life (work, family, commute, chores)?