**Devotional: The Power of Knowing**

Review:

2 Cor 3:7-11 The old covenant is “the ministry that brought death.”

But, it was glorious.

English: magnificent, wonderful, worthy of great praise.

Hebrew: Shining forth—emitting great light

And Moses’ ministry was truly glorious!!!! Literally!!!

He had to wear a veil.

But the ministry of Christ—the New Covenant is far more glorious.

v. 9 It brings righteousness.

v. 11 It lasts.

2 Cor 3:12-18

v. 12 Because we have this hope (the hope of glorification), we are very bold.

v. 14, 16 In Christ the veil is removed!!!! In Christ you can finally see.

v. 16 This happens when we receive the Holy Spirit at baptism.

2 Cor 3:16 Having the veil removed is not the goal. The goal is spiritual transformation. The goal is glorification!!!

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate/reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.

It is both. We contemplate, then we reflect, then we contemplate, then we reflect, then we contemplate, then we reflect.

Justification (veil removed) → Sanctification → Glorification.

2 Cor 4:1-6 We have this ministry of showing the glory of Christ to the world.

Therefore we do not lose heart.

Have you ever “lost heart”? Have you ever felt it was too hard? Have you ever contemplated packing it in, or seriously backing off on your Christian commitment?

Was Paul ever tempted to lose heart? Yes!

So, why did he not lose heart? Because he had this ministry of the gospel from God.

I am making a difference. Eternity is at stake. This is important!

So, what should we do?

 v. 2 Set forth the truth plainly.

 v. 2 Commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience.

Have you commended your life to people’s conscience. I have chosen the gospel. I have given my life to Christ. It is working.

v. 3 Will everyone listen? No. Their minds are still veiled.

What is the content of this truth that we set forth plainly?
1. Jesus as Lord.

2. Ourselves as servants for Jesus’ sake. How do we preach that?

2 Cor 4:7-12

We are mere “jars of clay.” We are mortal humans

v. 10 we “carry around in our body the death of Jesus.”

Our lives—changed by Christ—demonstrates what it means to die with Christ. Paul: “I die daily.”

Our lifestyle of sacrifice for Christ demonstrates the life-giving nature of being a Christian.

v. 12 “Death is at work in us.” People can see this, and so life can be at work in them.

2 Cor 4:13-18

The ultimate result of the transformation done by Christ is this:

 v. 13 We speak.

Have you been speaking? To whom? About what?

If the veil has been lifted, then you ought to speak about Christ.

v. 16 So, we do not lose heart.

We do not lose our motivation and zeal. Have you lost heart?

We do not lose heart because

1. v. 14 We know that God will raise us with Jesus.

 2. v. 15 God’s grace is reaching more and more people.

v. 16 Young people may not recognize this, but trust me, we are wasting away on the outside.

v. 17 Has everyday life gotten you down at all lately? Health concerns, financial issues, things needing to be done…

v. 16 Are you being renewed every day? Many believers are not! It goes back to 2 Cor 3:18 Are you being transformed by contemplating the Lord’s glory?

How do we avoid losing heart?

Fix our eyes on what is unseen.

We fix our eyes on the fact that God will raise us with Christ and present us to himself. (reference Hebrews 11:1 Faith is belief in things unseen)

2 Cor 5:1-10 And thus the title: The Power of Knowing

v. 10 know v. 5 guarantee v. 6 confident v. 7 live by faith. v. 7 confident

Paul says we KNOW we have an eternal house in heaven. This is one of those “unseen” things is 2 Cor 4:18.

How confident are you in your future in heaven? Why do you believe that?

v. 2, 4 Meanwhile we groan. In our physical nature, we groan. We long for something better.

v. 4 We don’t want to be “unclothed.” (being dead but not having a home and an new, immortal, heavenly body)

v. 4 We want to be clothed with our future immortal bodies.

v. 5 We can be confident because the Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing that we will have a new, resurrected body.

v. 7 Can you confidently say that you live by faith, not by sight? Why?

v. 8 Can you confidently say that you are looking forward to your physical death?

v. 9 Because we are confident of our future—because we Know we have a building from God—we make it our goal to please him.

2 Cor 5:11-15

It is odd that Paul talks about knowing, guaranteeing, confidence, but then he talks about fear.

We know that we will be clothed, but we fear, not for ourselves, but for others. We do the fearing that they do not do.

So, what do we do about this?

v. We try to persuade people. We do not just throw it out there. We appeal to their consciences.

v. 13 Paul was so determined to be persuasive that some said he was “out of his mind.”

Have you been so persuasive to people that some think you are out of your mind.

v. 14 Why was Paul “out of his mind?”

Q: What does Christ’s love compel us to do in this context?

1. persuade people (v. 11)

2. speak (4:13)

Q: Are you convinced that Christ died for you? Then you should be compelled to speak and to persuade.