

The Book 2 Corinthians

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE BIBLE IS LIKE NO OTHER BOOK, FOR IT HOLDS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, WHICH HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANY WHO READ IT AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. MATTHEW 7:24 SAYS, "EVERYONE THEN WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES THEM WILL BE LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK!" THROUGH THE NEBRASKA LIVING TIMES YOU MAY "TASTE" AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH HIS VERY OWN WORDS, EACH MONTH, RIGHT HERE. IF YOU MISSED A MONTH, AND WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE OF THE BIBLE, YOU CAN FIND IT UNDER THE "WORD OF GOD TAB ON OUR WEBSITE, WWW.NEBRASKALIVINGTIMES.COM. ALSO, IF YOU WANT YOUR OWN BIBLE, PLEASE SEE THE INFORMATION AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE, OR EMAIL US FOR MORE INFO. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WORD!"

(CONTINUED FROM NOV/DEC. 2020)

THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 4

THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

1 THEREFORE, HAVING THIS MINISTRY BY THE MERCY OF GOD, WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. 2 BUT WE HAVE RENOUNCED DISGRACEFUL, UNDERHANDED WAYS. WE REFUSE TO PRACTICE CUNNING OR TO TAMPER WITH GOD'S WORD, BUT BY THE OPEN STATEMENT OF THE TRUTH WE WOULD COMMEND OURSELVES TO EVERYONE'S CONSCIENCE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. 3 AND EVEN IF OUR GOSPEL IS VEILED, IT IS VEILED TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING. 4 IN THEIR CASE THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HAS BLINDED THE MINDS OF THE UNBELIEVERS, TO KEEP THEM FROM SEEING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD. 5 FOR WHAT WE PROCLAIM IS NOT OURSELVES, BUT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, WITH OURSELVES AS YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS' SAKE. 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.

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

7 BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY, TO SHOW THAT THE SURPASSING POWER BELONGS TO GOD AND NOT TO US. 8 WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT DRIVEN TO DESPAIR; 9 PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED; 10 ALWAYS CARRYING IN THE BODY THE DEATH OF JESUS, SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS MAY ALSO BE MANIFESTED IN OUR BODIES. 11 FOR WE WHO LIVE ARE ALWAYS BEING GIVEN OVER TO DEATH FOR JESUS' SAKE, SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS ALSO MAY BE MANIFESTED IN OUR MORTAL FLESH. 12 SO DEATH IS AT WORK IN US, BUT LIFE IN YOU.

13 SINCE WE HAVE THE SAME SPIRIT OF FAITH ACCORDING TO WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN, "I BELIEVED, AND SO I SPOKE," WE ALSO BELIEVE, AND SO WE ALSO SPEAK, 14 KNOWING THAT HE WHO RAISED THE LORD JESUS WILL RAISE US ALSO WITH JESUS AND BRING US WITH YOU INTO HIS PRESENCE. 15 FOR IT IS ALL FOR YOUR SAKE, SO THAT AS GRACE EXTENDS TO MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IT MAY INCREASE THANKSGIVING, TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

16 SO WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. THOUGH OUR OUTER SELF IS WASTING AWAY, OUR INNER SELF IS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY. 17 FOR THIS LIGHT MOMENTARY AFFLICTION IS PREPARING FOR US AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY BEYOND ALL COMPARISON, 18 AS WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN BUT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN. FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN ARE TRANSIENT, BUT THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN ARE ETERNAL.

CHAPTER 5

OUR HEAVENLY DWELLING

1 FOR WE KNOW THAT IF THE TENT THAT IS OUR EARTHLY HOME IS DESTROYED, WE HAVE A BUILDING FROM GOD, A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS. 2 FOR IN THIS TENT WE GROAN, LONGING TO PUT ON OUR HEAVENLY DWELLING, 3 IF INDEED BY PUTTING IT ON WE MAY NOT BE FOUND NAKED. 4 FOR WHILE WE ARE STILL IN THIS TENT, WE GROAN, BEING BURDENED—NOT THAT WE WOULD BE UNCLOTHED, BUT THAT WE WOULD BE FURTHER CLOTHED, SO THAT WHAT IS MORTAL MAY BE SWALLOWED UP BY LIFE. 5 HE WHO HAS PREPARED US FOR THIS VERY THING IS GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE SPIRIT AS A GUARANTEE. 6 SO WE ARE ALWAYS OF GOOD COURAGE. WE KNOW THAT WHILE WE ARE AT HOME IN THE BODY WE ARE AWAY FROM THE LORD, 7 FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT. 8 YES, WE ARE OF GOOD COURAGE, AND WE WOULD RATHER BE AWAY FROM THE BODY AND AT HOME WITH THE LORD. 9 SO WHETHER WE ARE AT HOME OR AWAY, WE MAKE IT OUR AIM TO PLEASE HIM. 10 FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, SO THAT EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE WHAT IS DUE FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE BODY, WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL.

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

11 THEREFORE, KNOWING THE FEAR OF THE LORD, WE PERSUADE OTHERS. BUT WHAT WE ARE IS KNOWN TO GOD, AND I HOPE IT IS KNOWN ALSO TO YOUR CONSCIENCE. 12 WE ARE NOT COMMENDING OURSELVES TO YOU AGAIN BUT GIVING YOU CAUSE TO BOAST ABOUT US, SO THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ANSWER THOSE WHO BOAST ABOUT OUTWARD APPEARANCE AND NOT ABOUT WHAT IS IN THE HEART. 13 FOR IF WE ARE BESIDE OURSELVES, IT IS FOR GOD; IF WE ARE IN OUR RIGHT MIND, IT IS FOR YOU. 14 FOR THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONTROLS US, BECAUSE WE HAVE CONCLUDED THIS: THAT ONE HAS DIED FOR ALL, THEREFORE ALL HAVE DIED; 15 AND HE DIED FOR ALL, THAT THOSE WHO LIVE MIGHT NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR HIM WHO FOR THEIR SAKE DIED AND WAS RAISED. 16 FROM NOW ON, THEREFORE, WE REGARD NO ONE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH. EVEN THOUGH WE ONCE REGARDED CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, WE REGARD HIM THUS NO LONGER. 17 THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION. THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, THE NEW HAS COME. 18 ALL THIS IS FROM GOD, WHO THROUGH CHRIST RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF AND GAVE US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION; 19 THAT IS, IN CHRIST GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF, NOT COUNTING THEIR TRESPASSES AGAINST THEM, AND ENTRUSTING TO



"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL."

EPHESIANS 6:11

US THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION. 20 THEREFORE, WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, GOD MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US. WE IMPORE YOU ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD. 21 FOR OUR SAKE HE MADE HIM TO BE SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

CHAPTER 6

1 WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM, THEN, WE APPEAL TO YOU NOT TO RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN. 2 FOR HE SAYS, "IN A FAVORABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND IN A DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU."

BEHOLD, NOW IS THE FAVORABLE TIME; BEHOLD, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. 3 WE PUT NO OBSTACLE IN ANYONE'S WAY, SO THAT NO FAULT MAY BE FOUND WITH OUR MINISTRY, 4 BUT AS SERVANTS OF GOD WE COMMEND OURSELVES IN EVERY WAY: BY GREAT ENDURANCE, IN AFFLICTIONS, HARDSHIPS, CALAMITIES, 5 BEATINGS, IMPRISONMENTS, RIOTS, LABORS, SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, HUNGER; 6 BY PURITY, KNOWLEDGE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, GENUINE LOVE; 7 BY TRUTHFUL SPEECH, AND THE POWER OF GOD; WITH THE WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE RIGHT HAND AND FOR THE LEFT; 8 THROUGH HONOR AND DISHONOR, THROUGH SLANDER AND PRAISE. WE ARE TREATED AS IMPOSTORS, AND YET ARE TRUE; 9 AS UNKNOWN, AND YET WELL KNOWN; AS DYING, AND BEHOLD, WE LIVE; AS PUNISHED, AND YET NOT KILLED; 10 AS SORROWFUL, YET ALWAYS REJOICING; AS POOR, YET MAKING MANY RICH; AS HAVING NOTHING, YET POSSESSING

EVERYTHING.

11 WE HAVE SPOKEN FREELY TO YOU, CORINTHIANS; OUR HEART IS WIDE OPEN. 12 YOU ARE NOT RESTRICTED BY US, BUT YOU ARE RESTRICTED IN YOUR OWN AFFECTIONS. 13 IN RETURN (I SPEAK AS TO CHILDREN) WIDEN YOUR HEARTS ALSO.

THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

14 DO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS. FOR WHAT PARTNERSHIP HAS RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH LAWLESSNESS? OR WHAT FELLOWSHIP HAS LIGHT WITH DARKNESS? 15 WHAT ACCORD HAS CHRIST WITH BELIAL? OR WHAT PORTION DOES A BELIEVER SHARE WITH AN UNBELIEVER? 16 WHAT AGREEMENT HAS THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? FOR WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; AS GOD SAID,

"I WILL MAKE MY DWELLING AMONG THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 THEREFORE GO OUT FROM THEIR MIDST, AND BE SEPARATE FROM THEM, SAYS THE LORD, AND TOUCH NO UNCLEAN THING; THEN I WILL WELCOME YOU,

18 AND I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO ME, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

CHAPTER 7

1 SINCE WE HAVE THESE PROMISES, BELOVED, LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM EVERY DEFILEMENT OF BODY AND SPIRIT, BRINGING HOLINESS TO COMPLETION IN THE

FEAR OF GOD.

PAUL'S JOY

2 MAKE ROOM IN YOUR HEARTS FOR US. WE HAVE WRONGED NO ONE, WE HAVE CORRUPTED NO ONE, WE HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF NO ONE. 3 I DO NOT SAY THIS TO CONDEMN YOU, FOR I SAID BEFORE THAT YOU ARE IN OUR HEARTS, TO DIE TOGETHER AND TO LIVE TOGETHER. 4 I AM ACTING WITH GREAT BOLDNESS TOWARD YOU; I HAVE GREAT PRIDE IN YOU; I AM FILLED WITH COMFORT. IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION, I AM OVERFLOWING WITH JOY.

5 FOR EVEN WHEN WE CAME INTO MACEDONIA, OUR BODIES HAD NO REST, BUT WE WERE AFFLICTED AT EVERY TURN—FIGHTING WITHOUT AND FEAR WITHIN. 6 BUT GOD, WHO COMFORTS THE DOWNCAST, COMFORTED US BY THE COMING OF TITUS, 7 AND NOT ONLY BY HIS COMING BUT ALSO BY THE COMFORT WITH WHICH HE WAS COMFORTED BY YOU, AS HE TOLD US OF YOUR LONGING, YOUR MOURNING, YOUR ZEAL FOR ME, SO THAT I REJOICED STILL MORE. 8 FOR EVEN IF I MADE YOU GRIEVE WITH MY LETTER, I DO NOT REGRET IT—THOUGH I DID REGRET IT, FOR I SEE THAT THAT LETTER GRIEVED YOU, THOUGH ONLY FOR A WHILE. 9 AS IT IS, I REJOICE, NOT BECAUSE YOU WERE GRIEVED, BUT BECAUSE YOU WERE GRIEVED INTO REPENTING. FOR YOU FELT A GODLY GRIEF, SO THAT YOU SUFFERED NO LOSS THROUGH US.

10 FOR GODLY GRIEF PRODUCES A REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION WITHOUT REGRET, WHEREAS WORLDLY GRIEF PRODUCES DEATH. 11 FOR SEE WHAT EARNESTNESS THIS GODLY GRIEF HAS PRODUCED IN YOU, BUT ALSO WHAT EAGERNESS TO CLEAR YOURSELVES, WHAT INDIGNATION, WHAT FEAR, WHAT LONGING, WHAT ZEAL, WHAT PUNISHMENT! AT EVERY POINT YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELVES INNOCENT IN THE MATTER. 12 SO ALTHOUGH I WROTE TO YOU, IT WAS NOT FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONE WHO DID THE WRONG, NOR FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONE WHO SUFFERED THE WRONG, BUT IN ORDER THAT YOUR EARNESTNESS FOR US MIGHT BE REVEALED TO YOU IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

13 THEREFORE WE ARE COMFORTED. AND BESIDES OUR OWN COMFORT, WE REJOICED STILL MORE AT THE JOY OF TITUS, BECAUSE HIS SPIRIT HAS BEEN REFRESHED BY YOU ALL. 14 FOR WHATEVER BOASTS I MADE TO HIM ABOUT YOU, I WAS NOT PUT TO SHAME. BUT JUST AS EVERYTHING WE SAID TO YOU WAS TRUE, SO ALSO OUR BOASTING BEFORE TITUS HAS PROVED TRUE. 15 AND HIS AFFECTION FOR YOU IS EVEN GREATER, AS HE REMEMBERS THE OBEDIENCE OF YOU ALL, HOW YOU RECEIVED HIM WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING. 16 I REJOICE, BECAUSE I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOU.

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