



The Second Epistle to the Corinthians

2 Corinth 4:17-18 God Ordains Trials & Suffering to Reveal His Glory Part 4

- ***2 Corinth 4:17,18 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”***
 - Dr. Dodd: *“This is one of the most emphatic passages in all St. Paul’s writings, in which he speaks as much like an orator as he does as an apostle.”*
 - Let’s revisit verses 8-16, remember this is part 4!
 - Define *light affliction*.
 - Only other use of *light* is *Matt 11:30* – *“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*
 - What does Christ mean here using the term *light*?
 - *Affliction* – oppression, tribulation, distress, straits



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- Doesn't this seem like an oxymoron?
 - How can an *affliction* be *light*?
 - Now when we relate this to our citizenship!
- *Is but for a moment - parautika*
 - Only NT use.
 - Is this redundant with *light*?
 - Is this our earthly perspective?
 - No, but it's a heavenly one.
 - *Mourning lasting until morning*?
- *but is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*
 - *working* is *present indicative* – believe it, it's true.
 - But why so often doesn't this seem to be happening?
 - *far more exceeding* – how's that for a hyperbole!
 - *an eternal weight of glory*
 - What is this *eternal weight of glory*?
 - » Whose *glory*?



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- Compare this *weight* (trouble or burden) with our earthly *affliction*.
- Are there rewards, earthly or eternal?
 - » *Rom 8:29 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,*
- And therefore,
 - » *1 Peter 1:6,7 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*
- *while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen*
 - Interestingly, to *look at* is *present active* whereas *seen* is *passive*
 - What does it mean to *look at*?
 - Not only visual but to direct one's attention to, to care for, to regard
 - Contrast what we *look at* here with what's not here.
 - *2 Cor 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
- *For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*



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- We need to put the things that are *seen* vs. those that are *not seen* into perspective:
 - *Heb 13:11 - Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.*
- Things seen include all that's part of the world system (*kosmos*), i.e. sin, poverty, want, care or lack thereof, persecution, trial.
 - *1 John 2:16 - For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*
 - And all this will be left behind, and this where are citizenship currently resides.
 - » *Rev 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

KEEP LOOKING DOWN!