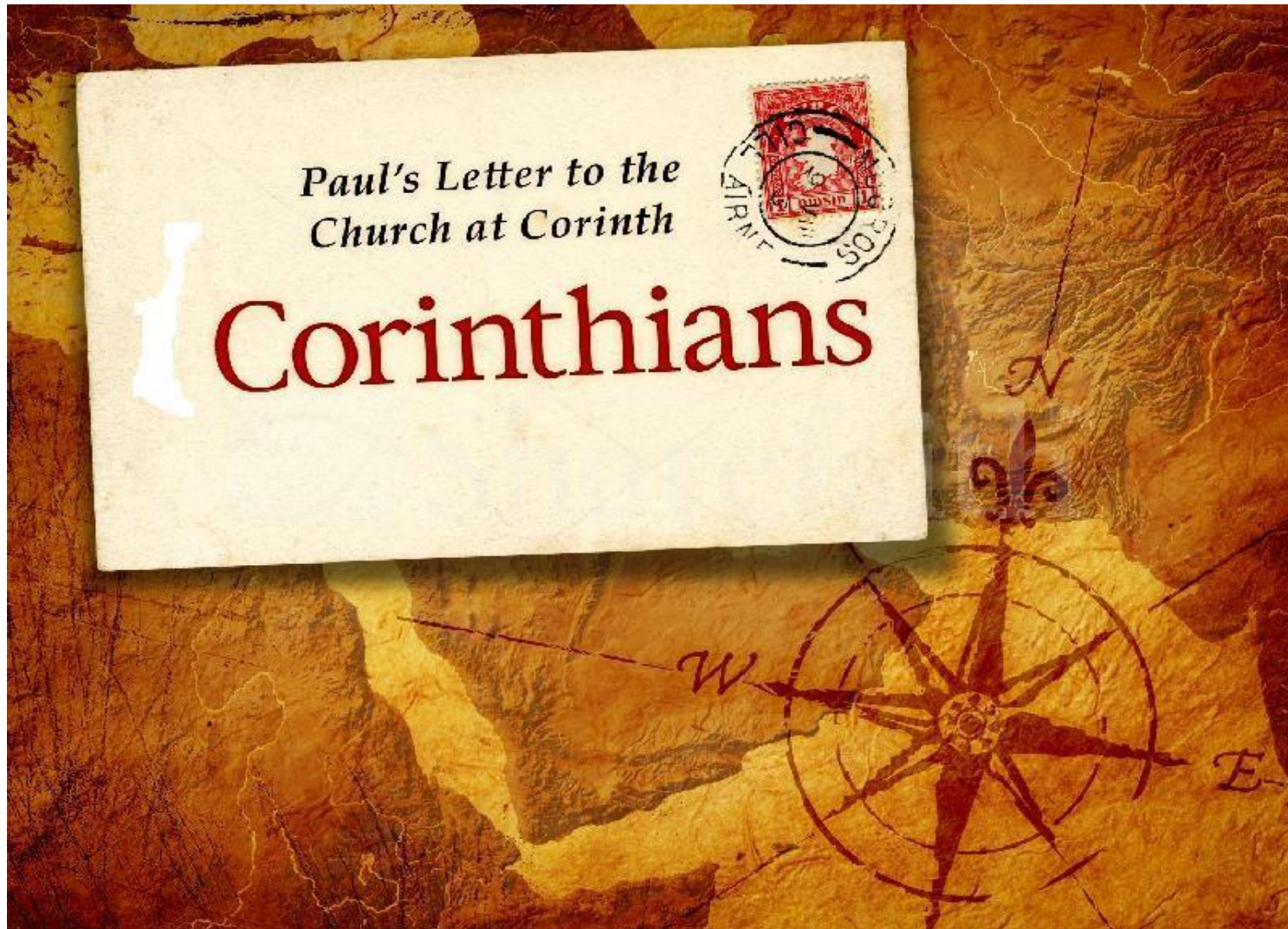


# 2 Cor. 4:8-9 God Ordained Trials & Suffering to Reveal His Glory



# Outline Chp 4:1- 12\*



Christ's life & ministry:

the glorious gospel and those who are blinded v1-4

Christ's life & ministry:

the glorious person of the gospel v5-7

God ordains:

trials & suffering to reveal His glory v8-9

The life of Jesus

may be manifested [shown forth] in our body v10-12

\* adapted from Hal Molloy

## Compare verse 4 with 6



the light  
of the gospel  
of the  
glory of Christ

the light  
of the knowledge  
of the  
glory of God

- The unbeliever needs the light of the gospel which comes from the glory of Christ.
- The believer needs the light of the knowledge [to grow in grace] which comes from the glory of God.

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



[God] is the One

who has shone in our hearts - in man's salvation

has shone - *lampō* - to shine, give light metaphorically

[past point fact, for every believer]

our heart - *kardia* – man's entire mental and moral being

many parallels come to mind [for a believer]:\*

- The only true light I know is God's light.
- The physical light of Genesis was by His Word.
- We are born again by His Word.
- His Word in my heart dispels spiritual darkness.
- God's Word at work in creation in contrast to God's Word personally in my heart.

\* McCalley

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



for an illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God

Interlinear

for - *pros* – to give or resulting in

an illumination - *phōtismós* - light, a bringing to light -  
an illumination from the Lord Himself

- resulting in an illumination being given of the knowledge of the glory of God Wuest
- “for an illumination” tells us why God’s word has shone in our hearts and following that is the content

of the knowledge of the glory of God

knowledge - *gnosis* - a seeking to know, an enquiry,  
investigation with respect to the glory of God

# Today's Verses



- <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;
- <sup>8</sup> *we are* afflicted in every way [or from every side], but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;
- <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
- <sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.



# Overview of verses 7 to 10

## Our Glorious Possessions \*



we have  
this treasure  
in earthen  
vessels  
v:7

[we have]  
from every  
side  
trial/suffering  
v:8-9

[we have]  
in the body  
the dying  
of Jesus  
v:10

[afflicted,  
perplexed,  
persecuted,  
struck down]

\* Molloy



7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

1<sup>st</sup> - Possession

we have this treasure “in earthen vessels”

- present tense – continuous action
- lit: we are having
- main verb in this sentence [verses 7 to 10]
- this treasure is in earthen vessels [believers]
- from verse 6 this treasure is “the glory of God”
- it radiates in our hearts\*
- it illuminates the hearts of men\*
- we have the most prized and valuable content\*
- Col 1:27b --- this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

\* Molloy



<sup>8</sup> from every side being afflicted but not being crushed, being perplexed but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> being persecuted but not being forsaken, being struck down but not being destroyed;

Interlinear [edited]



## 2<sup>nd</sup> - Possession

[we have] **from every side** trials and suffering

- God has appointed us to trials and suffering\*
- 1 Thess. 3:2 and we sent Timothy --- to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined [appointed] for this.
  - passive voice: we are being acted upon by God\*
  - indicative mood: it's a reality in every believer's life\*
  - present tense: it is continuous in your life - don't expect it to end\*

\* Molloy

<sup>8</sup> from every side being afflicted but not being crushed, being perplexed but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> being persecuted but not being forsaken, being struck down but not being destroyed;

Interlinear [edited]



## Trials and suffering in verses 8 and 9

- being afflicted but not being crushed
- being perplexed but not despairing
- being persecuted but not being forsaken
- being struck down but not being destroyed

## Why in each pair is the first one true and not the second?

- God is purposeful every one of your appointments to trials is measured for fulfilling God's eternal purpose in Christ.

Molloy

# The four trials that are true of all believers:



## being afflicted (*thlibô*) - present, passive

- You feel pressed by the circumstances in your life [by family, spouse, job, children, etc.] \*
- 1 Thess 3:3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined [appointed] for this. <sup>4</sup> --- we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

## being perplexed (*aporeô*) - present, middle

- You are uncertain as to how to proceed, you are at a loss\*
- lit: to be without a way
- Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you— <sup>20</sup> but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

\* Molloy

## The four trials that are true of all believers (cont.)



### being persecuted (*diôkô*) - present, passive

- mental / physical criticism by others\*
- Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 1 Cor 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

### being struck down (*kataballô*) - present, passive

- You are powerless in your circumstances or trial\*
- Psalm 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

\* Molloy



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His life & ministry: God ordains trials & suffering to reveal His Glory

THIS	BUT <u>NOT</u> THIS
<p><u>"Being afflicted"</u> - Present, Passive            You feel pressed by the circumstances in your life</p>	<p><u>"Being crushed"</u> - Present, Passive            You feel boxed in and anguished because of the circumstances</p>
<p><u>"Perplexed"</u> - Present, Middle            You are uncertain as to how to proceed, you are at a loss</p>	<p><u>"Despairing"</u> - Present, Active            You don't see a way through and are without any resources</p>
<p><u>"Being persecuted"</u> - Present, Passive            mental / physical, criticism by others</p>	<p><u>"Being forsaken"</u> - Present, Passive            You feel abandoned and helpless</p>
<p><u>"Being struck down"</u> - Present, Passive            You feel powerless in your circumstances or trial</p>	<p><u>"Being destroyed"</u> - Present, Passive            You feel a loss of well-being</p>

# The four things that are not to be true of believers:



being crushed (*stenochôreô*) - present, passive

You feel boxed in and anguished because of the circumstances

- lit: to crowd into a narrow space
- 2 Cor 6:12 You (Corinthians) are **not** compressed nor narrowed down in us, but you **are** compressed and narrowed down in your affections.

despairing (*exaporeô*) - present, active

You don't see a way through and are without any resources

- Lit: to be utterly without a way
- 2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.



# The four things that are not to be true of believers (cont.)



being forsaken (*enkataleipô*) - present, passive

You feel abandoned and helpless

- lit: to forsake, abandon, leave in straits, or helpless,
- Matt 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

being destroyed (*apollumi*) - present, passive

You feel a of loss of well-being

- The idea is not extinction but ruin.
- John 10:28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

## Things to consider about verses 8 and 9



- Can a believer be crushed, despairing, forsaken or destroyed?
- Will God ever be the source of the above sufferings?
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Paul tells us that believers will be afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down [we have been destined *or* appointed for this].
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Then Paul tells us that we not being crushed, despairing, forsaken or destroyed.
- 2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.

## Things to consider about verses 8 and 9 (cont.)



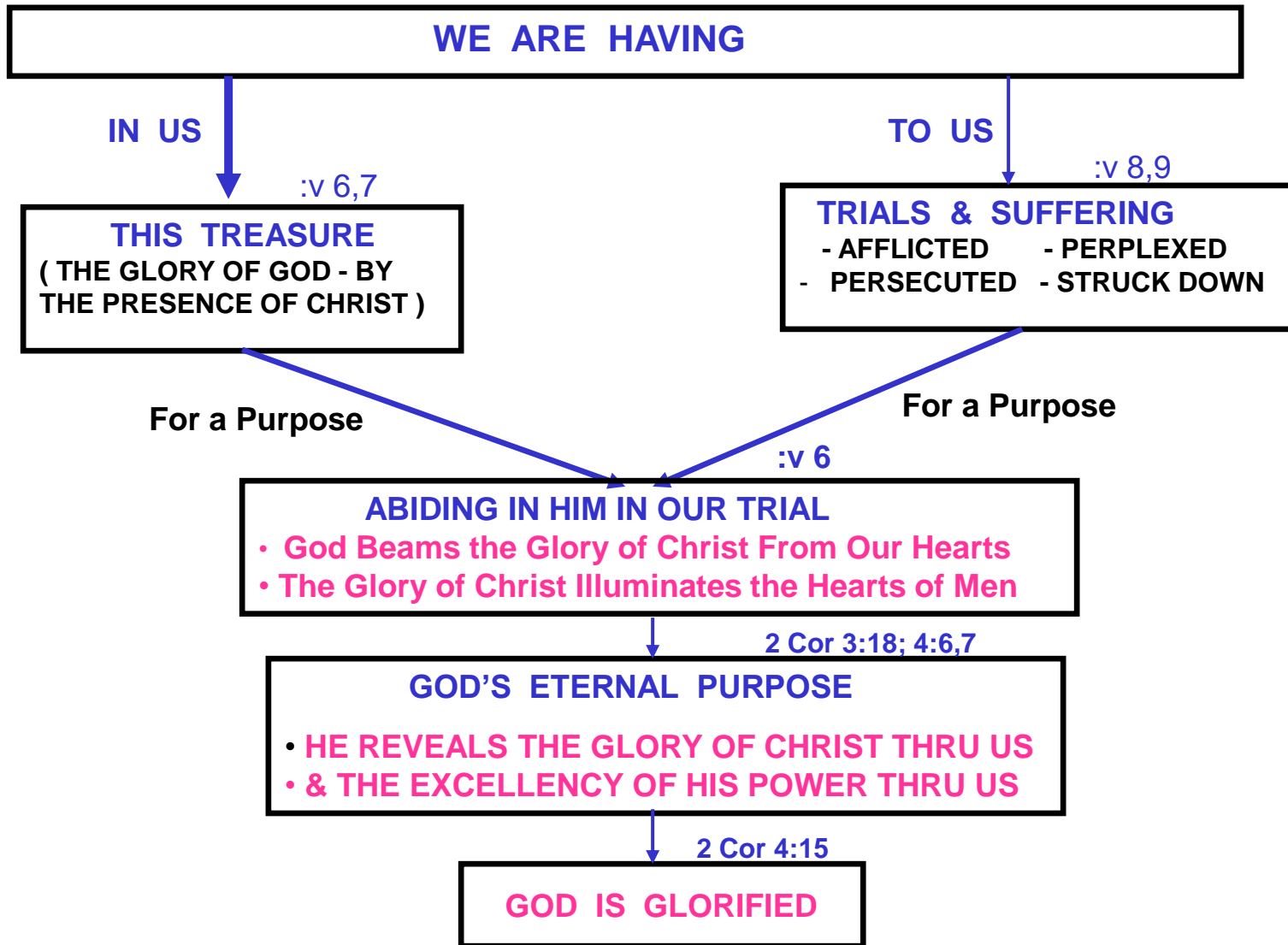
- God's desire is that we respond in faith to these temptations: being crushed, despairing, forsaken, destroyed.
- He tells us to abide in Me:
- John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- Walk in the light; Walk by the Spirit:
- 1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

## Things to consider about verses 8 and 9 (cont.)



- He tells us to reckon (or put it down as true) that we are dead to sin (the sin nature).
- Romans 6:11 Even so consider [reckon] yourselves to be dead to [the] sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- Since we have been separated from our sin nature we no longer need follow its temptations [feeling boxed in, despairing, forsaken or loss of well being].
- God's desire is that we count upon that we are now alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- He tells us to remember that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Heb 13:5

# OUR GLORIOUS POSSESSIONS - 2 Cor 4:6-9



# Final Thoughts \*



And He [the Lord] has said to me,

- “My grace is sufficient for you,
- for power is perfected in weakness.”
- Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake;
- for when I am weak, then I am strong.