

“UNDEFEATABLE !”

(2Corinthians 4:1-18)

June 4, 2017

Paul experienced the same FRUSTRATIONS we do: a world largely indifferent to the message of hope we carry and the aggressiveness of evil in the world we are charged to evangelize.

I. Reasons to be ENCOURAGED

1. God had given him a MINISTRY

God gives each of us a specific ministry—something we can do and that he wants done. And by doing it, we find ENCOURAGEMENT about ourselves and about life. EVERY Christian has a ministry.

Do you know yours?

2. The gospel he shared was TRUST WORTHY

Paul is able to rest his case “in the sight of God.”

3. The gospel is centered on a PERSON

The apostles and evangelists didn't preach a book, a ritual, an institution, or a set of teachings. They preached a person.

This gospel, centered on a person, is possible for ALL Christians to share.

4. The gospel's validity did not ride on anyone's ACCEPTANCE

Sin had created a veil over man's understanding and the people who are lost are suffering from a kind of spiritual BLINDNESS. That is why the Holy Spirit is so important in the work of sharing the gospel.

Only HE can lift the veil and open spiritual eyes.

“You have two sets of ears—your physical ears with which you hear what I'm saying to you right now, and your spiritual ears with which you hear what God says to you.”

-Billy Graham at his Crusade

We should be encouraged by knowing that what we desire is also what he desires and what he CAN cause to happen.

II. Reasons to NEVER give up.

1. Christ is the TREASURE – we are merely vessels

Every human being who has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is carrying that treasure within his HEART.

2. Life cannot throw MORE at us than we can handle

Paul is certainly honest here.

Life had knocked him down, but it had NOT knocked him out.

3. God can always RENEW our spirits when we are down

God helped him face life in the moment and gave him hope, EVEN after death, because he was able to:

4. Consider life in CONTEXT

How amazing that Paul can see the troubles of his life as “light and momentary!”

What a great reminder to us – all of this life's struggles are TEMPORARY!

If you are in Christ, you have an incredible future in store for you in the very presence of GOD himself.

And the promise of what is currently unseen but incredible beyond anything we can imagine, helps us to deal with the stuff of THIS life.

When we put it in context, we can stand strong and never give up.

Even against the Dominions!