

He Has Made Us Glad¹

Theme of May: *He Has Done Great Things*

June 1, 2025

Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

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 at 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.

VERSE 16 *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*

Through all of Paul's sufferings and near deaths, he knew that it had been for the greater good of all the members in the body of Christ. To those who had come to Christ by his preaching and testimony, it had been to the glory of God. To everyone who comes to Christ in a relationship, the Holy Spirit uses them to testify to God's amazing love and grace.

You and I will not lose heart by relying upon the Word of God, which is built on His faithfulness! The Word of God encourages us to maintain hope and resilience amid hardships by focusing on eternal perspectives. Since we were created to live for eternity and choose Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, the goal is to live with Him. **1 John 5:12 ESV** *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Each day, we are challenged to guard our hearts from living in a world corrupted by greed, pride, untruth, pleasure, self-reliance, and cell phone dependence. Life has become filled with distractions and misdirection that lead us from focusing on things of eternal value.

The enemy's job is to get us to focus on the nonessentials (petty things and missteps) rather than what God has promised and provided!

As each year passes, we witness our earthly bodies moving to a state of decline, yet our soul is renewed in the hope of being with Christ. We have a treasure in these earthen vessels: the person of the Holy Spirit and His fruit, who has set us apart by God's grace and glory! In all our days of walking by faith, God works in us to will and do His pleasure, making us Holy and acceptable.

VERSE 17 *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,*

We are continually confronted with opposition from within and without. These earthly bodies are subject to sickness, disease, long-term illness, and death. Our current

suffering is a fleeting trial compared to the immeasurable future glory promised to all those in Christ. This understanding helps us persevere in our current trials, knowing God has something far better for us. **1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV** *But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

We live in a world that is under condemnation because of the presence of sin, death, and imperfection. We always hope for the perfect day on earth, the ideal vacation place, and renewal... to find none.

VERSE 18, as we look not at 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.

The word of God encourages us to focus on the unseen, the eternal reality of God’s promises that cannot fail, and the future glory we will experience. I have revisited some beautiful places in my travels, but their beauty and splendor have diminished after many years. In this world, nothing remains the same... time and the elements are constantly changing.

We may experience some complex challenges, but if we look to God’s word, those times will eventually end and be replaced with something better. We must evaluate the worth of things seen and their eternal value to our destiny.

If you think about it, life on earth is about preparing us for eternity. It’s about accepting God’s gift of salvation in Christ Jesus, encouraging others to go with us, and storing up treasures in Heaven. It is very accurate what **Matthew 6:21** states, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Applications:

In Christ, we possess the Spirit of Truth and Light to keep us from falling.

Our purpose reaches far beyond the veil of flesh into God’s eternal presence.