

March 2, 2014

A Treasure In Jars Of Clay

Vol. 4 Number 9

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Willie J. Bolden

Executive Director of
Community and Church
Relations, DTS-Houston

B.S., Biola University,
1980; M.A., Talbot
Theological Seminary, 1992; D. Min.
Southwestern Theological Seminary, 2006.



A graduate of Biola University, Talbot Seminary, and Southwestern Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree in Mission and Evangelism, Willie Bolden is an adjunct professor at Dallas Christian College and Dallas Seminary. After planting two churches in California, Willie came to DeSoto, Texas, to found These Are They Community Church, where he is now senior pastor. Willie and his wife, Loretta, have seven children. He is also the founder of W.J. Bolden Ministries.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 (NIV)

¹Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

²Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,

¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.

¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. How do you guard from preaching about Christ and not about yourself? (v. 5)
2. How grateful are you to know that God has entrusted the Gospel to your care? (v. 6)
3. How valuable is the Gospel to you? (v. 7)
4. As Paul speaks about our human frailties, why do you think God would still choose to trust us to care and communicate the Gospel?" (vv. 8-9)
5. When you evaluate your level of commitment to the Gospel, how do you understand that your commitment and sacrifice bears fruit for others? (vv. 10-12)
6. Have you ever been persecuted or suffered as a result of sharing the Gospel? (vv. 16-17)

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
