2 Corinthians 4:1-18 ***Courageous Christianity*** Dr. Harlan D. Betz

**1A. Introduction:**

Every servant of Christ will face obstacles! But that doesn't mean we need to throw up our hands in despair! Paul faced incredible obstacles. Paul didn't quit. Paul didn't lose heart. What was his secret? What bolstered his courage in times of trouble? Paul reveals three answers to that question in 2 Corinthians 4.

**2A. Exposition:**

**1B. We have a marvelous ministry! (1-6)**

1. It is a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

(2-4) It is a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

(5-6) It is a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**2B. We have a tremendous treasure (7-12).**

(7) We do not lose heart because we have a tremendous treasure.

Therefore, due to God's presence and purpose, we are:

(8) Afflicted, but not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(8) Perplexed, but not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Persecuted, but not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(9) Struck down but not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

…, the sufferings brought glory to God and good to the church!

**3B. We have a fantastic Faith! (13-18)**

The key is not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of faith, the key is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the faith!

You don't need a big \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 17:20); you need a big \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Jesus said, *"Have faith in \_\_\_\_\_\_!"* (Mark 11:22).

1. Through faith we can be guaranteed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (14)
2. Through faith we can be certain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (15)
3. Through faith we can be sure trials are working \_\_\_\_ us, not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us!

First, Paul declares that his inner man is being renewed day by day! (16)

Second, Paul talks about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his sufferings. (17).

Third, Paul was convinced that the invisible was real! (18).

His focus was on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

His focus was on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

No temporary obstacle should keep us from serving Christ!

No temporary suffering should blur our vision of becoming like Christ.

*"Do not grow weary in well doing,*

*for in due season, you shall reap,*

*if you faint not!"* Galatians 6:9