

# **Hidden Treasures - 2 Corinthians 4**

**God has entrusted believers with a priceless treasure, the  
gospel**

## **A. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)**

**1. His perseverance (4:1)**

**2. His openness and honesty (4:2)**

**a. Paul did not use the ministry to advance his own  
interests**

**b. Paul did not try to make God's message palatable  
to sinful human taste**

**3. The essential elements of the Gospel**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-5**

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gospel**

**A. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)  
continued**

**4. His opponent (4:3-4)**

**“Unbelief produces blindness which produces  
unbelief”**

**5. His preaching (4:5-6)**

**His message was not just words**

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## **B. The Difficulties of a Servant of God (4:7-15)**

**1. His weakness (4:7)**

**2. His hardships (4:8-15)**

**a. The work of death (4:8-11)**

**1). Four examples of Paul's frailty**

**2). Four examples of God's power**

**Paul was "dying" but he was not "dead"**

**b. The ministry of life (4:12-15)**

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## **C. The Hope of a Servant of God (4:16-18)**

### **1. The Hope of Daily invincibility (4:16)**

#### **a. The priority of ministry**

**Is ministry our “cause?”**

#### **b. The perseverance in ministry**

# **Our Future Hope**

## **2 Corinthians 5:1-8**

**Our spiritual hope should cause us to be  
spiritual**

# **I. Look at His Claim (5:1)**

## **2 Corinthians 5:1**

**For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

### **A. We know**

#### **John 3:11**

**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.**

#### **John 13:17**

**If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**

# **I. Look at His Claim (5:1)**

## **B. What do we know**

- 1. About the occupied body**
- 2. About the glorified body**

## **C. Why should we know**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13**

**But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

### **2 Timothy 1:12**

**For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**

## **II. Listen to His Cry (5:2-5)**

### **2 Corinthians 5:2-5**

**2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:**

**3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.**

**4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

**5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**

## **II. Listen to His Cry (5:2-5)**

### **A. The sigh**

**“Groan” – A desire**

**Romans 8:22-23**

**22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

**23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.**

## **II. Listen to His Cry (5:2-5)**

### **B. The symbol**

#### **Revelation 3:5**

**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

## **II. Listen to His Cry (5:2-5)**

### **C. The spirit**

**“Earnest” – Expectation of more to come**

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

**13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

**14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

# **III. Learn From His Confidence (5:6-8)**

## **A. A courageous attitude (5:6)**

### **2 Corinthians 5:6**

**Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord.**

**Because our future is secure we can face today's difficulties with courage**

# **III. Learn From His Confidence (5:6-8)**

## **B. A confident heart (5:7)**

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

**(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**

**Colossians 1:10**

**That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all  
pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and  
increasing in the knowledge of God;**

**Philippians 1:6**

**Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath  
begun a good work in you will perform it until the day  
of Jesus Christ:**

# **III. Learn From His Confidence (5:6-8)**

## **C. A conquering spirit (5:8)**

### **2 Corinthians 5:8**

**We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

**Paul was willing to lose his life for the sake of Christ**

**Heaven was more than  
a destination,  
it was a motivation**