

1  **CLAY POTS**

2 Cor. 4:7ff

2  **VS. 7 THIS TREASURE?**

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ, "that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them." 2 Cor. 5:19
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- Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation." Col. 1:22-23
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- "...God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved." Eph. 2:4-5

3  **JARS OF CLAY?**

Earthen vessels. Clay pots. Regular folk.

Tall. Short. Weak. Strong. Articulate. Slow of speech. Nice to look at. Very ordinary. Large. Diminutive. Healthy. Sick.

MOSES "Oh Lord, I have never been eloquent..." Ex. 4:10

ISAIAH "I am a man of unclean lips..." Is. 6:5

PAUL "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos?" 1 Cor. 3:5

See also 1 Cor. 1:17, 21, 26-31; 2:1-5

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4  **WHY JARS OF CLAY?**

PURPOSE

"To show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

Consider John 3:30

5  **VSS. 8-9 GREAT EXPECTATIONS?**

Paul describes the reality of the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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"If any man come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." Matt. 16:24

Jesus meant that.

6  **VSS. 10-12**

PURPOSE

"So that the life of Christ may also be revealed in our body."

"So that his life might be revealed in our mortal body."

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Notice how okay Paul is that 'death is at work in us'

"But hey, life is at work in you!"

7  **VSS. 13-15**

PURPOSES

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THE BENEFIT OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

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"SO THAT the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

8  **VSS. 16FF****THAT WINNING PERSPECTIVE**

"Therefore we do not lose heart..."

Therefore always take us back to what we just saw.

So why does the faithful follower of Christ not lose heart in spite of hardship?

Because the Body is benefitting and God is being glorified.

9 

These troubles? "Light and momentary" (Old NIV)

"Light momentary afflictions" (ESV)

"Light affliction, which is but for a moment" (NKJV)

(See 2 Cor. 11:23-27)

Compared to what others are facing? NO

Compared to the eternal glory that is to come

10  **VS. 18**

"So we *fix our eyes* not on what is seen,  
but what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary,  
but what is unseen is eternal."