

Bible Study - God's Kingdom (The Big Picture)
Wk 7 - The Proclaimed Kingdom: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

We live in the 'last days' between Jesus' first and second comings. God is patiently waiting for more people to come into his kingdom before he sends Jesus back to wrap everything up. Second Corinthians speaks about the harsh realities of life and the unbreakable faith that sustains us through difficult and dangerous times. Paul reminds us that all Christians are equipped by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ, are called to preserve in faith and are given the privilege of being called to the ministry of evangelism.

Opening Questions:?

1. What temporary storage solutions do you have around the house?
2. How would you categorise the things you put in storage containers?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

1. What can we learn from Paul's example of evangelism?

2. What does Paul mean by V2?
(a) What might make it difficult (2Cor 2:17, Gal 1:10, 2 Tim 4:3)

3. What response should we expect?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

4. What is 'this treasure' that Paul refers to?

5. In what sense are we 'Jars of Clay'?

6. How do verses 8-12 reflect your experience of evangelism?
 - (a) Why has God allowed us to be weak?
 - (b) What encouragements are we given in our weakness?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

7. What can we expect now in this present age?

8. What is our hope in the age to come?

9. What difference should this make to us now?

Summary

10. How have you seen Christ's power displayed in hard times?
11. How can we better remind ourselves and others about 'this treasure'?

Personal Reflection:

1. Do you see yourself as a 'jar of clay'. Why or why not?
2. Reflecting on the Parish vision, mission & ministry plan
 - (a) How has God challenged you through this passage?
 - (b) What can you do to try to put its message into practice?