

# 2 CORINTHIANS

The Benefit of Inadequacy

# **2 Corinthians 4:1-16**

**“Treasure in Clay”**

*How do we not lose heart?*

# Treasure in Clay

1. *The Treasure We Have* – 4:1-6

*the substance not the shape*

2. *The Clay We Are* – 4:7-12

*the content not the container*

3. *The Renewal We Experience* – 4:13-16

*the renewal not the ruining*

# Treasure in Clay

## 1. *The Treasure We Have* – 4:1-6

*the substance not the shape*

*“God’s Word” ... “the truth”*

*“our gospel”, “the light of the gospel...”*

*“glory of Jesus Christ as Lord”, “image of God”*

*“knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”*

# Treasure in Clay

## 1. *The Treasure We Have* – 4:1-6

*the substance not the shape*

*“open statement of the truth”*

*“even if our gospel is veiled [not recognized]”*

“For I am not ashamed fo the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...”

– Romans 1:16

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*the substance not the shape*

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*the renewal not the ruining*



“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

– Genesis 3:19

# Treasure in Clay

## 2. *The Clay We Are* – 4:7-12

*the content not the container*

*The Great Resignation*

*Rise of Depression and Suicide Rates*

*Disconnected Isolation and Internet Animosity*

*Pastoral Burnout*

*De-conversion and “Ex-vangelicals”*

*Splits in Evangelicalism*

“ In-person church attendance is roughly 30% to 50% lower than it was before the pandemic, estimates Barna Group, a research firm that studies faith in the U.S.

While religious leaders expect some rebound ... many don't expect attendance to return to previous levels. That has left church looking for different approaches to connect with existing members and attract new ones.”

– Wall Street Journal

“The Pastors Aren’t All Right: 38% Consider Leaving Ministry: As the pandemic has gone on, burnout continues to take its toll on church leaders”

... “Prior to COVID-19, burnout was a silent epidemic in ministry leaders. The stats testify to this, but now I might say burnout is endemic,” said Dan White...”

– Christianity Today

## Normal Progression

***Breaking Experiences***     *lead to* ***Brokenness Death***

*Affliction/Hurt*

*Perplexed/Confused*

*Persecuted/Attacked*

*Struck Down/Beat Up*

*Crushed*

*Driven to Despair*

*Forsaken/Abandoned*

*Destroyed*

## Gospel Progression

### ***Breaking Experiences***

*given over to death for Jesus*

### *lead to* ***Resurrection Life***

*life of Jesus manifested in [us]*

*Affliction/Hurt*

*Perplexed/Confused*

*Persecuted/Attacked*

*Struck Down/Beat Up*

*NOT Crushed*

*NOT Despair*

*NOT Forsaken/Abandoned*

*NOT Destroyed*

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<sup>8</sup> For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

<sup>9</sup> I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup> I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted";

<sup>11</sup> I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."

– Psalm 116:8-11



*How do we not lose heart?”*

*“We have this treasure in jars of clay to  
show that the surpassing power belongs to  
God and not to us”*