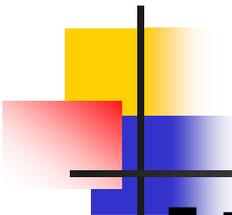


The Treasure In

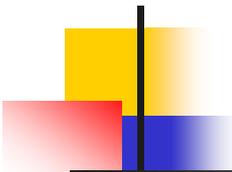
The Cracked Pot





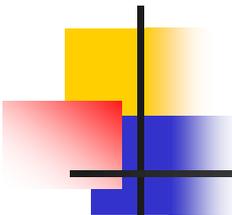
Does Paul Have a Death Wish

- ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants [d]for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
- ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;



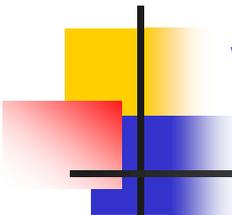
His Idea of a Good Time?

■ ⁸ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.



See What Paul Sees

- ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants [d]for Jesus' sake.
- – **Right from the beginning Paul makes it clear that he is not focusing on himself or his life – his goal is to become a servant to the body of Christ so that Jesus can be glorified and draw people to Himself.**



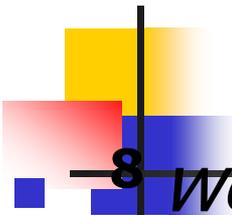
Welcoming His Presence

- ⁶ For God, who said, “**Light shall shine out of darkness,**” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
- **Paul makes this clear by reminding his readers that it is the light of God - which is also to say the presence and power of God – that is filling him and flowing out of him. It is NOT him and he doesn't want it to be him.**



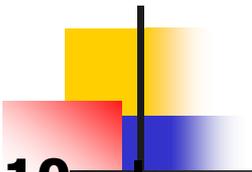
Our Full-Time Dirty Job

- ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;
- **Paul compares himself to a weak, crumbly, flimsy vessel made out of dirt, not even fired and glazed into a ceramic. He is pointing to his own limits and weaknesses and says that it was God's plan all along to fill weak human vessels with HIMSELF so that the whole world could see how great God's power is when humans just get out of the way and surrender to HIM.**



Much Stronger Than Dirt

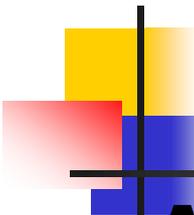
- ~~8~~ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
- **Then, Paul makes a list of some of the hard things he has had to go through – honestly, not that much different than things we all have to go through. But, in spite of the fact that he has been afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, and even struck down, he has NEVER been crushed, despairing, forsaken, or destroyed. In other words, he has survived and overcome all of it.**



How? Why? Wait For It

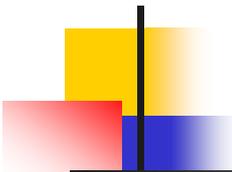
10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

Because he has surrendered to the DEATH LIFE (an Andrew Murray term). Just like Jesus, Paul has surrendered his will to God in absolute dependance on Him, and was willing to face things that were hard, even though at times he probably didn't want to (like Jesus in Gethsemane) and die to himself, so that the RESURRECTION LIFE OF JESUS COULD RELEASE DIVINE POWER WITHIN HIM!!!



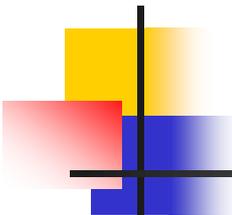
Paul's Constant Experience

- **Afflicted** = surrounded and pressured on every side to the point of being crushed, but always being given a way of escape
- **Perplexed** – to be without means or resources (NOT ENOUGH) and so stumped regarding what to do, but never giving up!
- **Persecuted** = hunted or chased by people who hate you, yet God was always there
- **Knocked down**, facing utter ruin, yet God was always faithful to lift Him back up



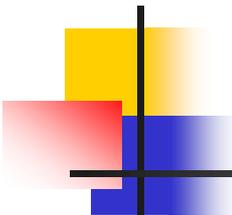
God's Plan Comes Together

- **11** For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
- AND this became the pattern of Paul's life. God was constantly bringing Paul to and through situations in his life where he could either cling to his fleshly feelings, opinions, goals and desires and say "I want it my way!" Or he could say, "Not my will, but yours be done," and surrender to God in absolute dependence and let God work in his situation, because he had finally learned that the only way for the life of Jesus to rise up in our broken lives and heal us and heal others, is for us to let go of our right to have things our way.



Me < God + Spirit's Power

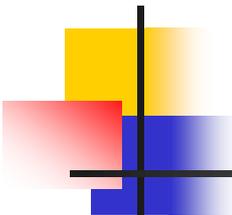
- ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.
- **So Paul's life can now be reduced into one simple equation: I surrender my life to His life, so His life can fill me up with His presence and power and the fruit of the Holy Spirit and spill out all over the people God has brought into my life, so they can be filled up with the life of Jesus, too, and learn how to die the death of Jesus so He can fill them up with His life, too."**



This is the Only Way

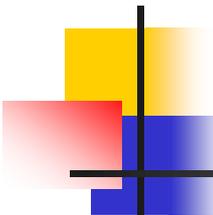
Paul sort of summarizes this idea again over in Galatians 2:20:

**I have been crucified with Christ.(dead)
Nevertheless, I live. Not that I live, but
it is Christ living in me. And the life that
I now live, I live by faith in the Son of
God, who loved me, and gave himself
up for me.**



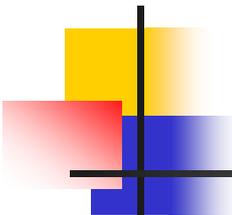
Philippians 4 – Exclamation !!

I have learned to be [h]content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ **I can do all things [i]through Him who strengthens me.**



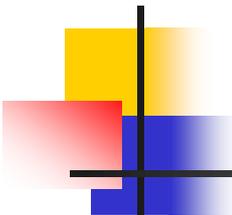
Phillip E Hughes says ...

Paul is speaking the language of experience, the constant experience simultaneously of his own incapacity and of God's transcending power which transforms every situation. To be at the end of man's resources is not to be at the end of God's resources; on the contrary, it is to be precisely at the position best suited to prove and benefit from them, and to experience the surplus of the power of God breaking through and resolving the human dilemma.



The Cracked Pot Creed

- I AM NOT ENOUGH
- I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ENOUGH
- I AM A FRAGILE DIRT POT
- I AM MADE FOR ONE PURPOSE, WHICH IS
- **TO CONTAIN AND DEMONSTRATE
AND RELEASE THE POWER OF GOD**
- **SO THAT THE WORLD WILL KNOW
THAT JESUS IS LORD AND GOD IS
ALWAYS FAITHFUL!!**



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY