

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Resurrection Life

Speaker:

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Date:

May 17th, 2026

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 4:7–18

Theme: Do not lose heart, because our resurrection is already at work.

Introduction: Things such as severe health issues raise fears: fears about the future, what life will look like in coming days, a weakening body and mind, and life being cut short. Paul shows us that even as death is at work in our bodies day by day, it shows forth the greater life that is growing in us day by day. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is once-for-all, and it gives life to all who trust in him.

Paul teaches us in Second Corinthians 4:7–18 how it is that we will not lose heart:

1. Interpret Affliction as God's Grand Design (7–12)

- Christians have within them the most precious and valuable treasure.
 - We would think that the “packaging” would match the treasure stored inside, but it is actually in jars of clay.
- Paul lays out four paradoxes for every believer in verses 8–9: (1) afflicted but not crushed, (2) perplexed but not despairing, (3) persecuted but not forsaken, and (4) struck down but not destroyed.
- The packaging doesn't match what is inside, but this is by design, in order to show that the glory we contain does not come from ourselves but from God.
- All people are dying on the outside. The unbeliever is dying on the inside too, but the Christian has resurrection life inside.

2. Let Your Faith Speak (13–15)

- Paul's point in verses 13–15 is simple: If I believe it, I must speak it.
- Paul knows that if the Father raised the Son, he will also be raised to new life with Jesus. This is true for every believer.
- As more people know the grace of God in Jesus, more people are filled with gratitude, and more glory is given to God as a result.

3. Look to the Eternal Unseen (16–18)

- Though our bodies are outwardly wasting away, something different is happening inside the Christian.
- It is not simply that we will be outwardly resurrected some day; we are already inwardly resurrected, and we live in the good of that.
- The futility of life can feel overwhelming, but the Christian should remember that the futility is external only, and it is preparing us for eternal glory.

Questions:

1. How does knowing that the glorious gospel resides in jars of clay affect your daily life?
2. How does the assurance of the resurrection help you in a current affliction?
3. How do you see the good effects of the resurrection in your life now? How can you grow to continue living in its goodness?