

# Sermon Study Questions

## Sunday, November 10, 2024

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
  
2. What is the treasure Paul speaks about in v.7, and what makes this treasure so valuable?
  
3. In speaking of jars of clay in v.7 Paul is referring to God's people. Why does he refer to us as jars of clay?
  
4. Why does God place this treasure in jars of clay?
  
5. In v.8-9 Paul describes his suffering, referring to it through a series of contrasting pairs and then summarizing it by calling it "the carrying about in the body the death of Jesus." Why is it referred to in this way, and what is the purpose of this suffering?
  
6. How is it that Jesus' life in us is made known in a more profound way through suffering?
  
7. In v.12 Paul says, "So death is at work in us, but life in you." What does he mean by that?
  
8. In v.13 Paul cites Psalm 116 in order to show that faith is what energizes him to speak (i.e. to preach). It is clear from v.14 that Paul is speaking of faith that he will be raised just as Jesus was. How does a firm belief in one's future resurrection energize faithful preaching?

9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

**Reading of Law: Luke 9:23**

And Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Lk. 9:23 ESV)

**Prayer of Confession:**

Our Father in heaven, we come before you in Jesus' name grateful for the grace and kindness you have shown us in Christ. We confess that even as Christ has died for us, we are reluctant to die to self, but we instead seek what is comfortable and convenient. We indulge ourselves, rather than deny ourselves. We rarely make sacrifices that are costly to us, but tend to do that which is easy for us. There are many days when we do not take up our cross, but simply go about our day without any thought of self-denial or sacrifice for your sake and the sake of others. How different this is from our Savior, who left His throne in glory and took on human flesh in order to suffer for us and serve us by laying down His in our place. Father, please forgive us. And please help us to be more like our Savior who loved us and gave Himself for us. Please work His grace and love deep into our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 8:33-34**

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

**WLC: 153**

Q. 153. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us by reason of the transgression of the law?

A. That we may escape the wrath and curse of God due to us by reason of the transgression of the law, He requires of us repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and

the diligent use of the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation.

[Acts 20:21](#); [Matt. 3:7-8](#); [Luke 13:3, 5](#); [Acts 16:30-31](#); [John 3:16, 18](#); [Prov. 2:1-5](#); [Prov. 8:33-36](#).

### **OT Reading: Psalm 116**

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. <sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. <sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. <sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" <sup>5</sup> Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. <sup>6</sup> The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. <sup>7</sup> Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. <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." <sup>12</sup> What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? <sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, <sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. <sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. <sup>16</sup> O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. <sup>17</sup> I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. <sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, <sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!