

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1^{vi}

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture-- "I believed, and so I spoke" -- we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

^{vi} About 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Paul's continues to explain the nature of his ministry. Despite his suffering, his faith will not let him keep silent, he must bear witness as he illustrated by quoting Psalm 116:10 (quoted according to the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament). His preaching, his suffering and his faith are all for the Corinthians' sake so that the gift of grace may call forth the response of gratitude. For the believer, life in Jesus is both present (4:11-12) and future (4:14).

Paul combines static images drawn from Hellenistic dualism—outer/inner, seen/unseen—with a dynamic Hebraic eschatological outlook—present/future, old/new, transient/eternal. God's work of salvation and the Christian experience of it are both 'now' and also 'not yet'. In verse 17, Paul plays with the sense of the Hebrew word for glory, which also means heavy. Literally, 'the present lightness of affliction' prepares believers for "an eternal weight of glory," not as a compensation for suffering but as a product, a fruit, of it (Rom. 8:17).