Life and death

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

1. Intro
   1. The light of the gospel is shining thorough our life…and death
   2. The treasure is placed in us but Holy God
   3. The contrast is that which is eternal is placed into that which is perishing
   4. We don’t need any more reminders of how challenging this world is, we face a great challenge.
2. Text
   1. Verse 7: treasure stored in that which is formed by the potter
   2. Verses 8-9: the life in the Spirit:
      1. Does not keep us from difficulty
      2. But does keep us from eternal ruin
   3. Verse 10: we carry on in Life as folks who were crucified with Christ
   4. Verse 11: whatever we face, good or difficult, is so we make much of Jesus
   5. Verse 12: death is at work in us, but that brings attention to LIFE that is also in us.
3. Point
   1. Carrying on in the body
      1. We must carry on
      2. It is our calling and our privilege
      3. Words describing how we carry on:
         1. Pressed but not crushed
            1. Reference to grapes and wine making
            2. To get the juice out of a grape, it must be crushed
            3. But we are not crushed!
         2. Perplexed but not in despair:
            1. to be without resources, to be in straits, to be left wanting, to be embarrassed, to be in doubt, not to know which way to turn
            2. to be at a loss with one's self, be in doubt
            3. not to know how to decide or what to do, to be perplexed
         3. Persecuted but not abandoned: we will be marked by our convictions
         4. Struck down but not destroyed:
            1. to cast down
            2. to throw to the ground, prostrate
            3. to put in a lower place
            4. to lay (down) a foundation
   2. Carrying on in death
      1. Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
      2. We walk as folks who have been set free from the separation caused by death.
      3. John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
      4. The physical body is going to die, but that is not the end.
      5. There is great hope in Christ!
   3. Carrying on in Life
      1. Ephesians 2:1-7And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2**in which you walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3**among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body[a] and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.[b] **4**But[c] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6**and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7**so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
      2. Since we carry on in life, we must understand what that means
         1. We carry on in resurrection power
         2. We carry on in relationship
         3. We carry on in LIFE!
4. Close

2 Corinthians 4: 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.