

Week 3 - "It Is Well"

The Battle Against Suffering and Discouragement

Big Idea: We can worship in the middle of suffering because what we see now is temporary, but what God has promised us is eternal.

Opening Question

Where did you experience the "battle" we talked about Sunday in your own life this week?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7–18

Discussion

1. *Paul describes believers as "jars of clay" carrying treasure. What does that picture communicate about our weakness and God's power?*
2. *Why are we often uncomfortable admitting weakness? How can acknowledging our limitations actually make God's strength more visible?*
3. *Look at Paul's contrasts in verses 8–9: afflicted but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed. Which contrast speaks most strongly to you right now?*
4. *Paul doesn't pretend his suffering isn't real. What is the difference between biblical hope and pretending everything is okay?*
5. *Horatio Spafford's story gives "It Is Well" unusual weight because the hymn emerged from profound grief. Why can declarations of faith sometimes be most meaningful when our circumstances seem to contradict them?*

6. *Paul repeatedly says, "We do not lose heart." What circumstances are most likely to make you personally lose heart?*
7. *Verse 14 grounds Paul's hope in the resurrection of Jesus. How does knowing where our story ultimately ends change the way we endure what is happening in the middle?*
8. *Paul calls his suffering "light momentary affliction" compared with an "eternal weight of glory." How can we embrace that perspective without minimizing genuine pain?*
9. *Verse 18 contrasts "the things that are seen" with "the things that are unseen." What "seen" circumstance is currently dominating your attention?*
10. *What are some practical ways we can train ourselves to look toward the coming kingdom when immediate circumstances demand our attention?*
11. *Think about something difficult God has brought you through in the past. Looking back, how did God meet you, change you, sustain you, or reveal Himself to you through it?*

Closing Question

Based on tonight's passage, what truth do you need to actively remember and believe this week?

Prayer Prompts

- **For those suffering:** Pray specifically for people in the group walking through grief, uncertainty, disappointment, illness, family difficulty, or other painful circumstances.
- **Eternal perspective:** Ask God to help us fix our eyes not merely on what is seen but on the eternal realities He has promised.
- **Do not lose heart:** Pray for supernatural endurance and confidence in Christ for anyone who feels tired, discouraged, or close to giving up.