

2 Cor. 4:16-18

- I. We do not lose heart. (16)
 - A. We do not lose heart. (16a)

Paul doesn't lose his heart for ministry and quit, even though he has encountered significant obstacles which made him despair physically
 - B. Reason – We are being renewed. (16b-c)

Having said he won't quit, Paul explains why he won't lose heart. Paul knew without a doubt that the troubles he encountered would achieve something good for him.

 - 1. Concession – even though our outer man is wasting away. (16b)
 - 2. Our inner man is being renewed every day. (16c)
- II. Reason – It will all be worth it (17-18)

The trouble Paul endures as he faithfully serves the Lord achieve an eternal glory for him that is far out of proportion to his bitter experiences.

 - A. Our light and momentary trials are achieving for us an eternal glory that is beyond comparison. (17)
 - 1. He considers his afflictions light and momentary.
 - 2. He realizes his reward will be glorious and eternal.
 - B. Reason – We (as believers) deal with eternal, glorious things. (18)

We must not focus our lives upon what is seen, but we must make a calculated, conscious decision to consistently follow after what is unseen.

 - 1. We concentrate on the things of God. (18a-b)
 - a Neg. – We don't concentrate on the things that are seen. (18a)

If we focus upon what we can see, we can get discouraged, and even forget what God has told us to do; then we will lose the full reward He wants to give us.
 - b Pos. – We concentrate on the things that are not seen. (18b)

As we consistently focus upon the unseen world of God's rule (as a way of life), His Will will become top priority to us.
 - 2. The reason we do so. (18c-d)

This general principle is true because what can be seen is secondary to that which by nature is deathless and eternal.

 - a Neg. – The things that can be seen are temporary. (18c)
 - b Pos. – The things that cannot be seen are eternal. (18d)