

I. Read II Corinthians 4:16-17

- A. The Apostle Paul experienced great trials and tribulation in his lifetime. Read II Corinthians 11:23-28 and list the difficulties he faced.

In spite of these great challenges, he says in II Corinthians 4:16 that he and his associates did “not lose heart.” Why not?

Read Philippians 4:11-13 and describe how Paul was able to *rise above* the circumstances of life.

- B. The late, great Francis Schaeffer explained that in our day, Christians have opted for *personal peace* and *affluence* over the pursuit of the high calling of God. What did he mean by *personal peace* and *affluence*?

How might *personal peace* and *affluence* get in the way of living for God?

How does Luke 8:14 serve as a warning to those who would consider the points above unimportant?

- C. When Paul speaks of the “outer man” as “decaying” (NAS), to what is he referring? (V16)

What is the “inner man” which is being “renewed day by day”?

How is the “inner man” renewed day by day?

- D. What do the contrasting descriptive phrases “light affliction” and “weight of glory” (NAS) explain to us? (v17)

- E. In verse 18, Paul draws an important distinction between the temporal and the eternal. While it must not be inferred that he is denigrating this life or the physical world in which we live, he is certainly pointing to the proper priorities of life. When given a choice, where should our priorities be?