



The Reward of Faithful Sacrifice

as demonstrated by Paul

2 Timothy 4:8; Philippians 3:8

- The Reward of Faithful Service

Henceforth there is laid up for me
**the crown of
righteousness,**
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that day, and
not only to me but also to all who
have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8



- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (ESV) 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Henceforth there is laid up for me
**the crown of
righteousness,**
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that day, and
not only to me but also to all who
have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8



- Could stop right here!
- But wait, there's more.
- Paul's example is deeper, and pushes us to understand this hope that we have.

Henceforth there is laid up for me
**the crown of
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which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that day, and
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have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8



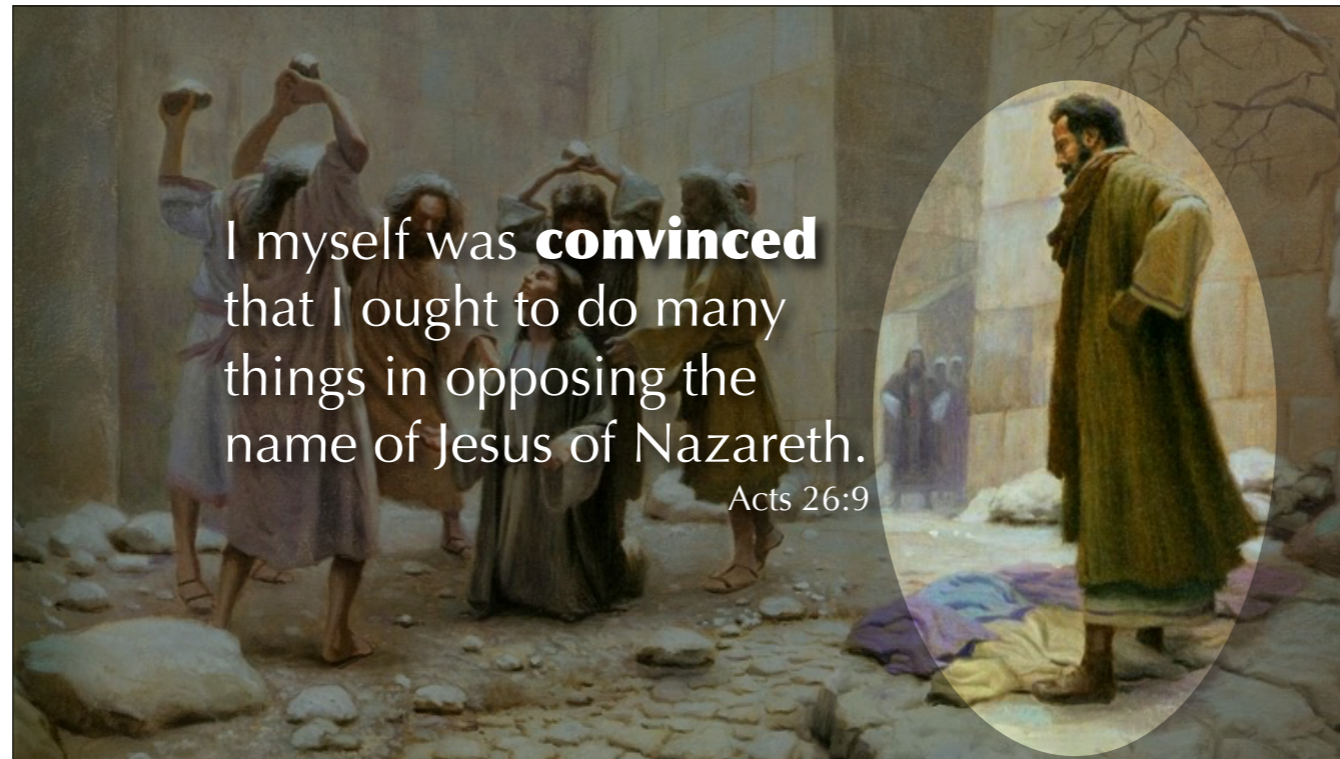
- Paul didn't EARN this crown.
- It was "laid up" for him: "reserved, waiting for"
- It is "awarded" to him.
- It is a victory crown (not ruling).



- When we first meet Saul, it is at the stoning of Stephen.
- Saul begins persecuting the church violently, severely and dedicated to destroying it (Gal. 1:13)



- Thinks he is serving God!
 - John 16:2 (ESV) They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.
- Thinks he is being faithful to God!



- Acts 26:9 (ESV) “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Agrippa

I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age

Galatians 1:14



- Galatians 1:14 (ESV) And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.
- Philippians 3:4-6 (ESV) 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age
Galatians 1:14



- 5 circumcised on the eighth day

I was *advancing* in Judaism beyond many of my own age

Galatians 1:14

Circumcised

+

Israel



- of the people of Israel

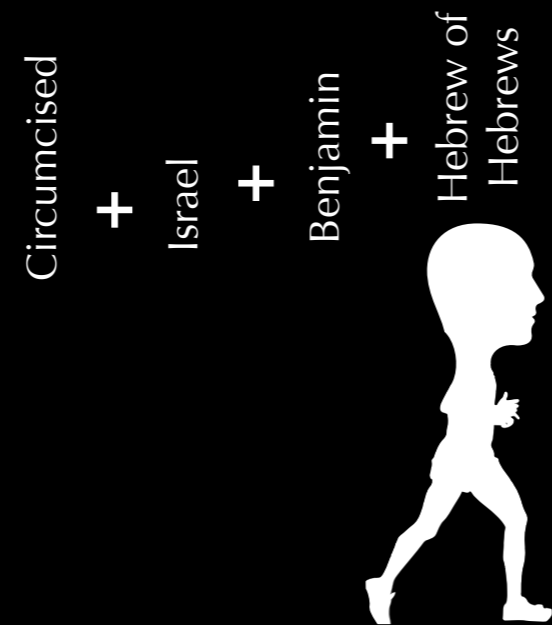
I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age
Galatians 1:14



- of the tribe of Benjamin

I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age

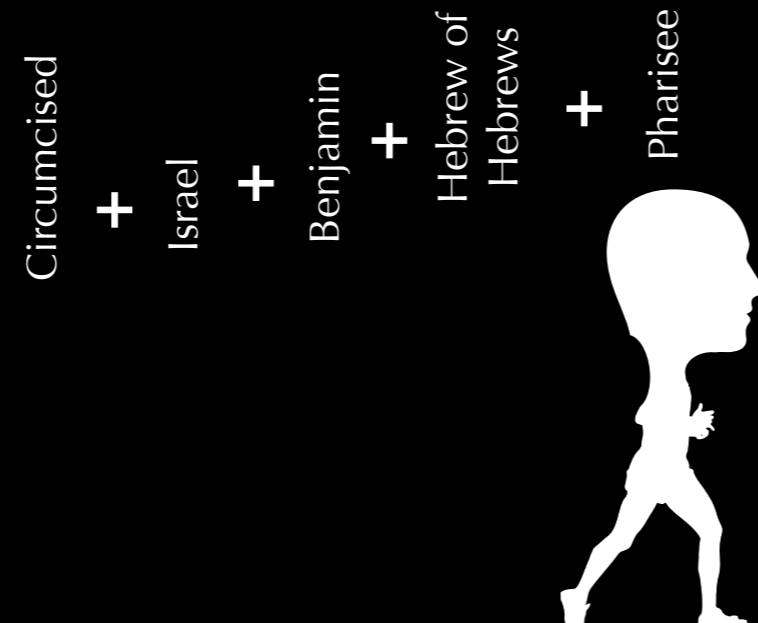
Galatians 1:14



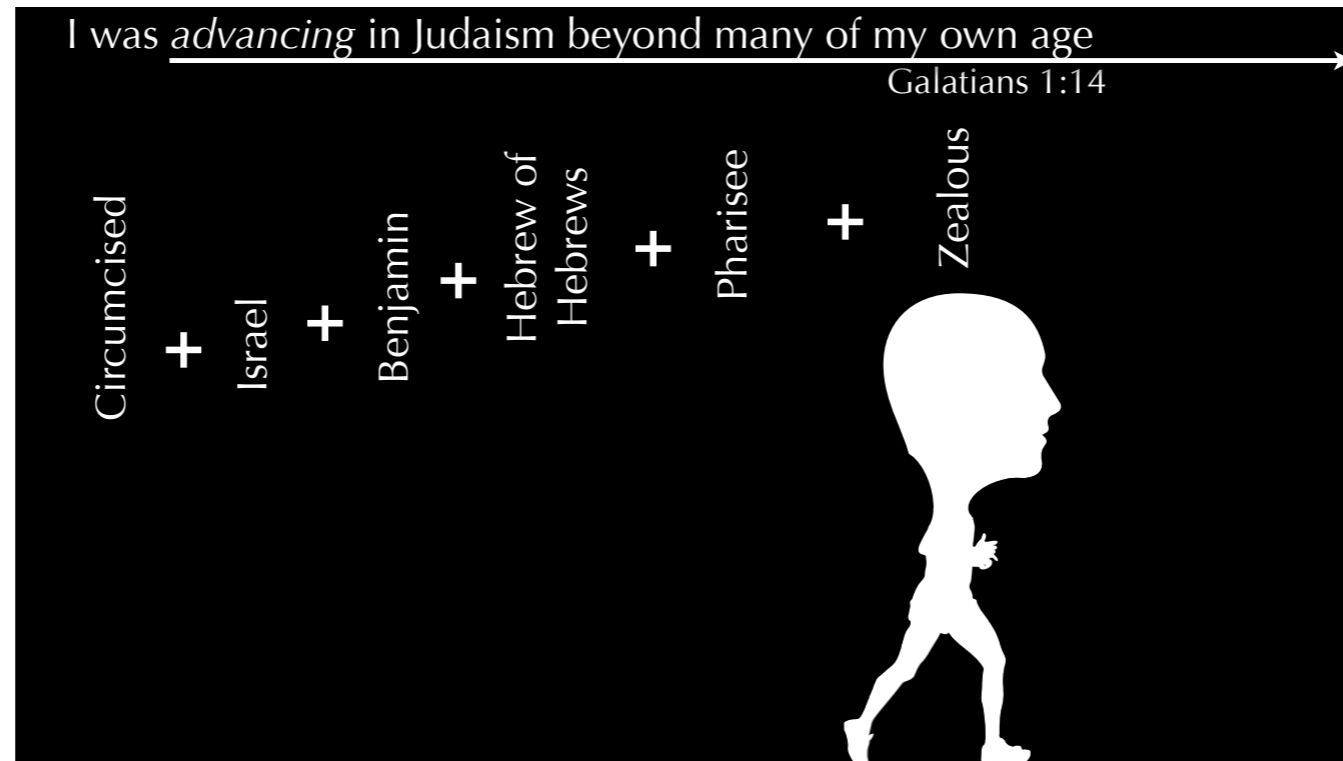
- a Hebrew of Hebrews
- Saul had nothing to do with any four of these
 - Right circumstances and parents
 - Proud of these

I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age

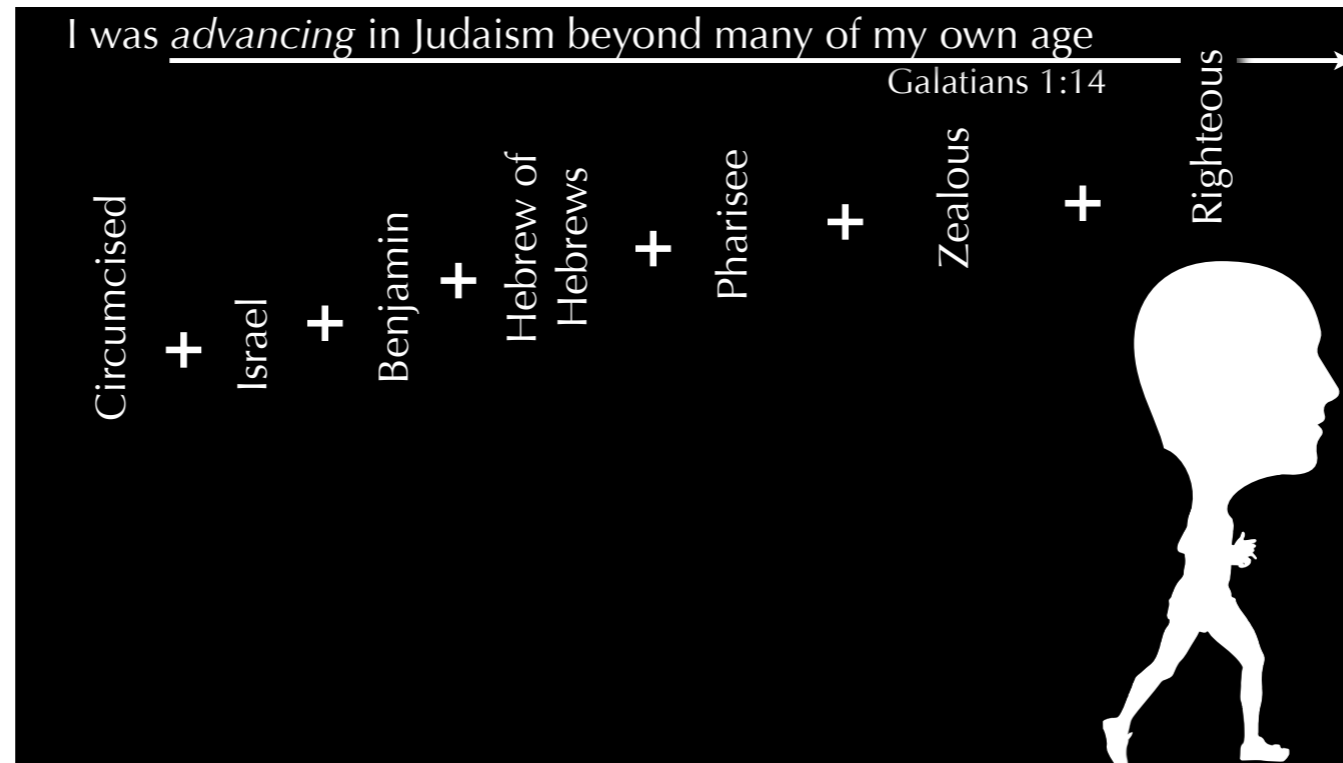
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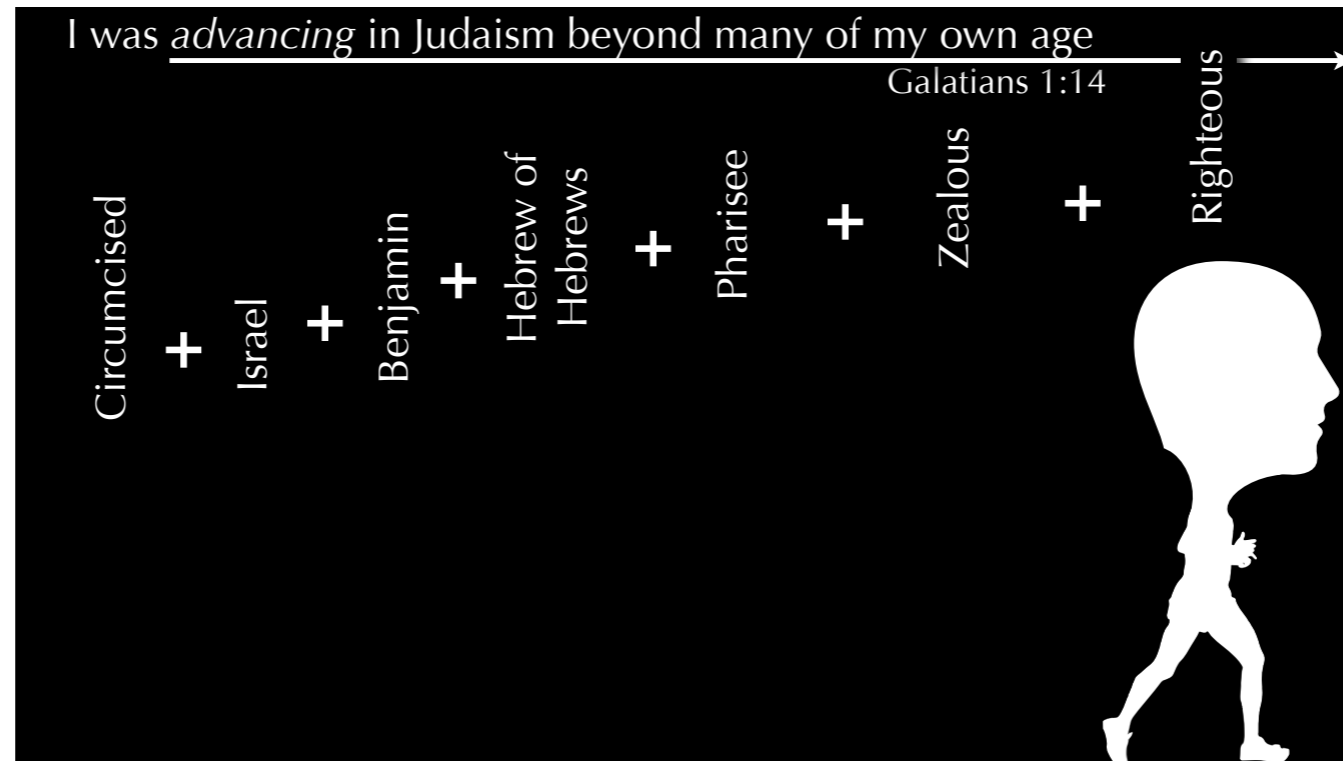
- as to the law, a Pharisee



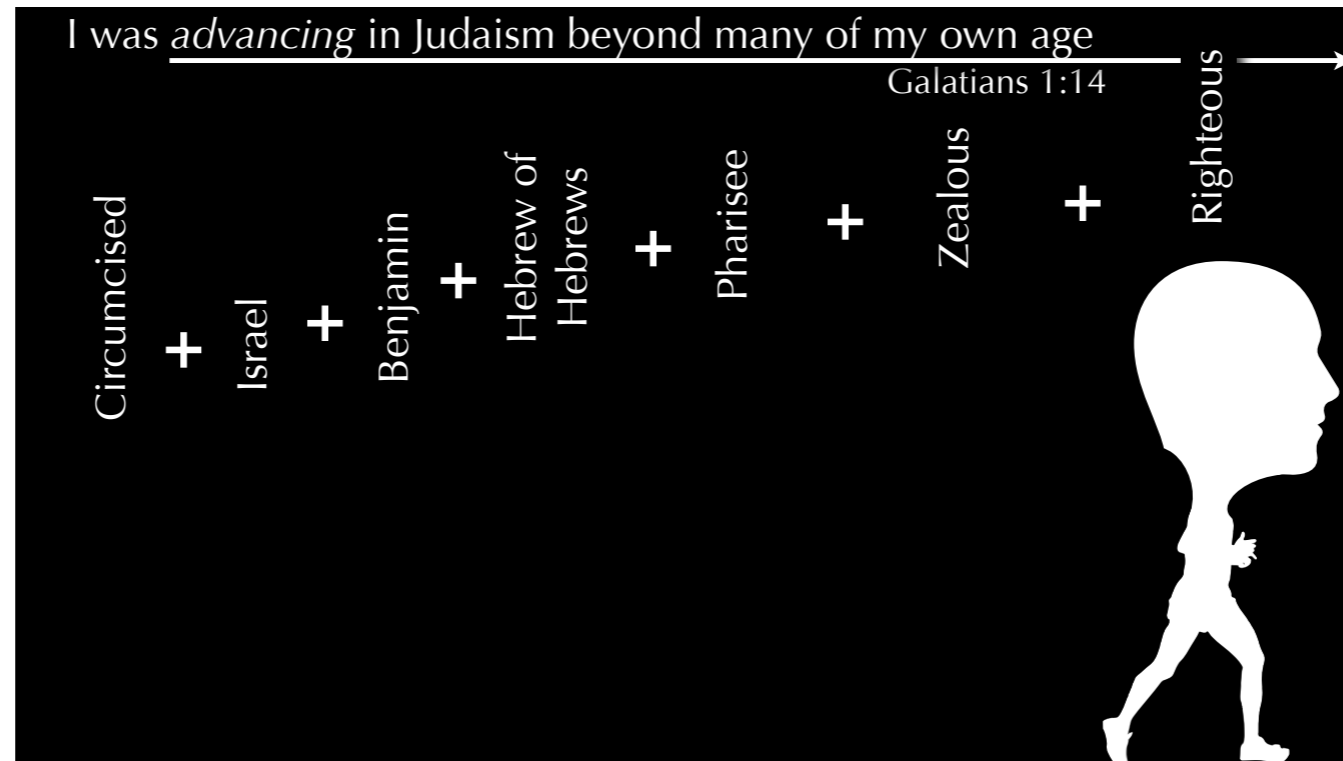
- 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church



- as to righteousness under the law, blameless.



- Do you hear a certain smugness in Saul?
- He was advanced beyond many and he knew it.
- He was well on his way to being a leading Jew.
- He was convinced that he was pleasing to God.



- Most of us have things like this in our life, compare ourselves to others
- My education is better than yours
- My clan is better than yours
- My stuff is better than yours



- On road to Damascus
- Acts 26:14: Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.
- He was so full of himself that he had no room to respond to the goads of Jesus: stubborn pride.
- Three days blind & fasting



- Acts 9:16: For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.
- Go to Philipians 3:7-11

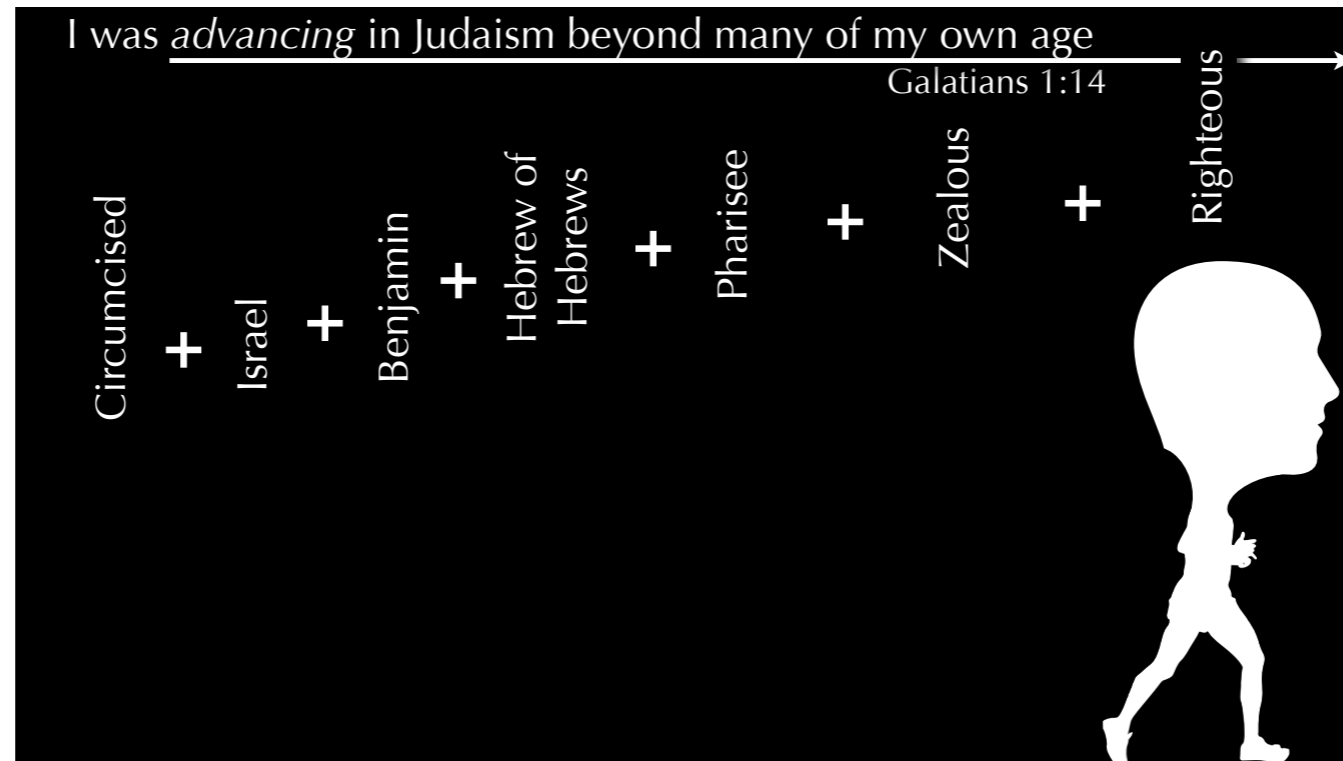
**For His sake I have suffered
the loss of all things
and count them as rubbish,
in order that I may gain Christ**
Philippians 3:8

- Philippians 3:7-11 (ESV) 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

**For His sake I have suffered
the loss of all things
and count them as rubbish,
in order that I may gain Christ**
Philippians 3:8

dung
(KJV)

- KJV: Dung
-



- Before Paul was full of pride about himself.
- He saw himself as having a lot of things going for him.



- All those things
 - Circumcised, Israel, Benjamin, Hebrew, Pharisee, Zealous, Righteous

All Things



- Those are his baggage.

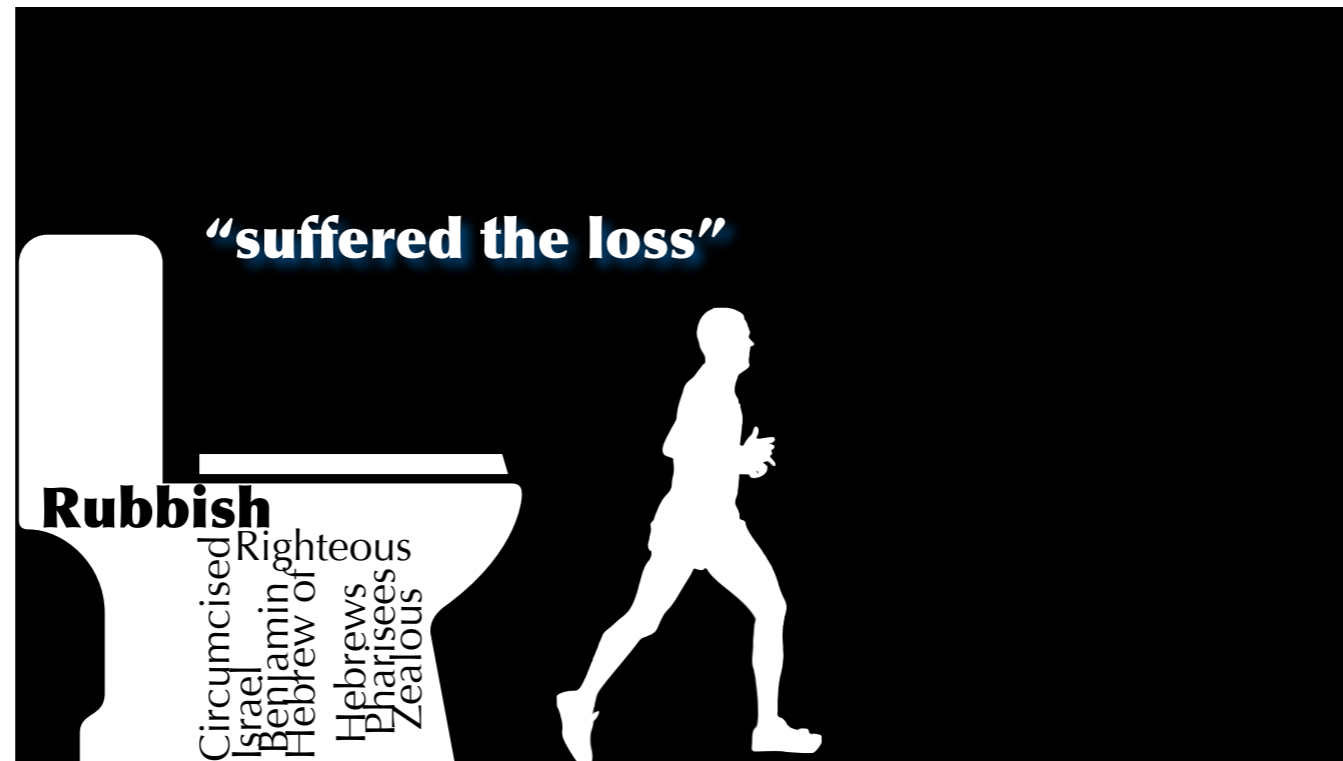


- Rubbish: "suffered the loss"?
 - My granddad could fix anything.
 - Also saved everything: it might be useful.
 - Yard and shed were full of things ... he could use
 - Rust, bent, leftover, unknown
 - When it was time to clean it all up ... we saw rubbish
- One man's garbage is another man's treasure.

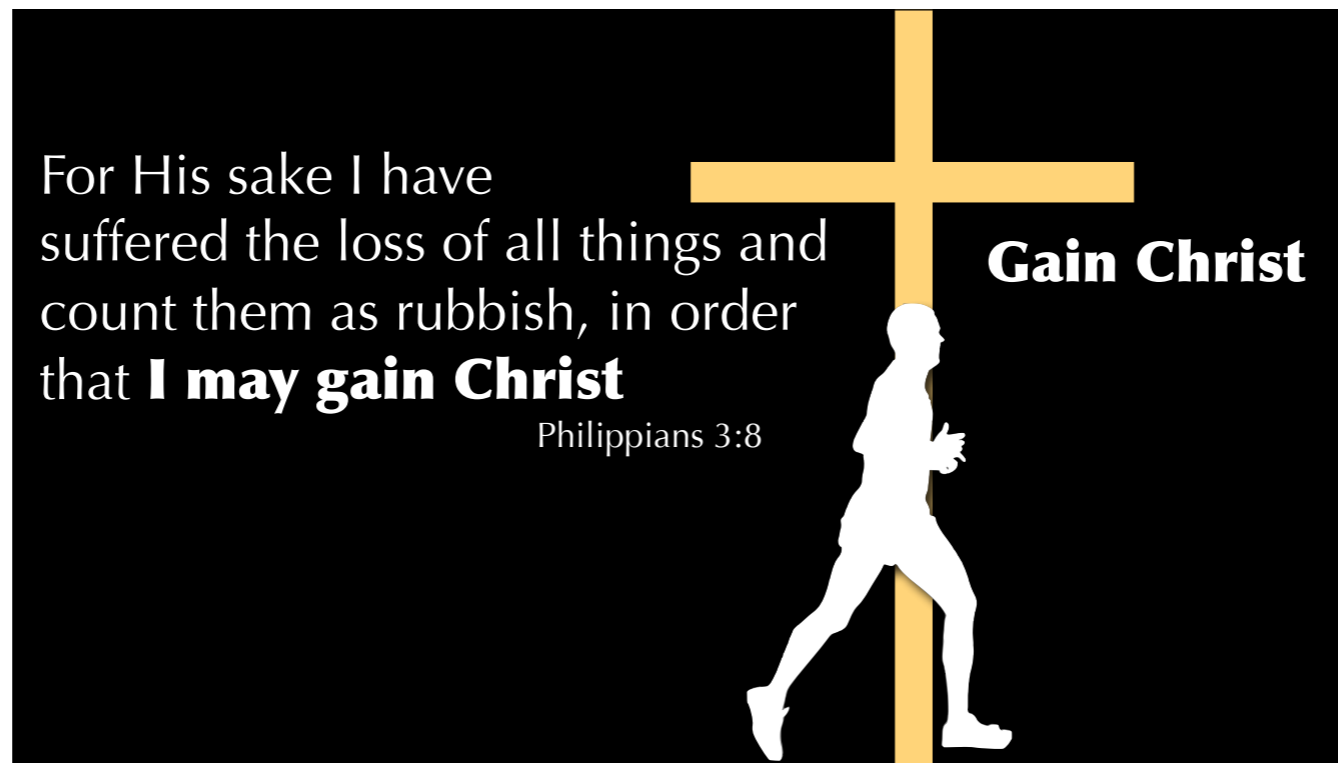
“suffered the loss”



- suffered the loss
- God knows it's really not easy for us to let go.



- Dung...
 - no one collects dung for later use
 - it's no loss at all!



- Philippians 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

For His sake I have
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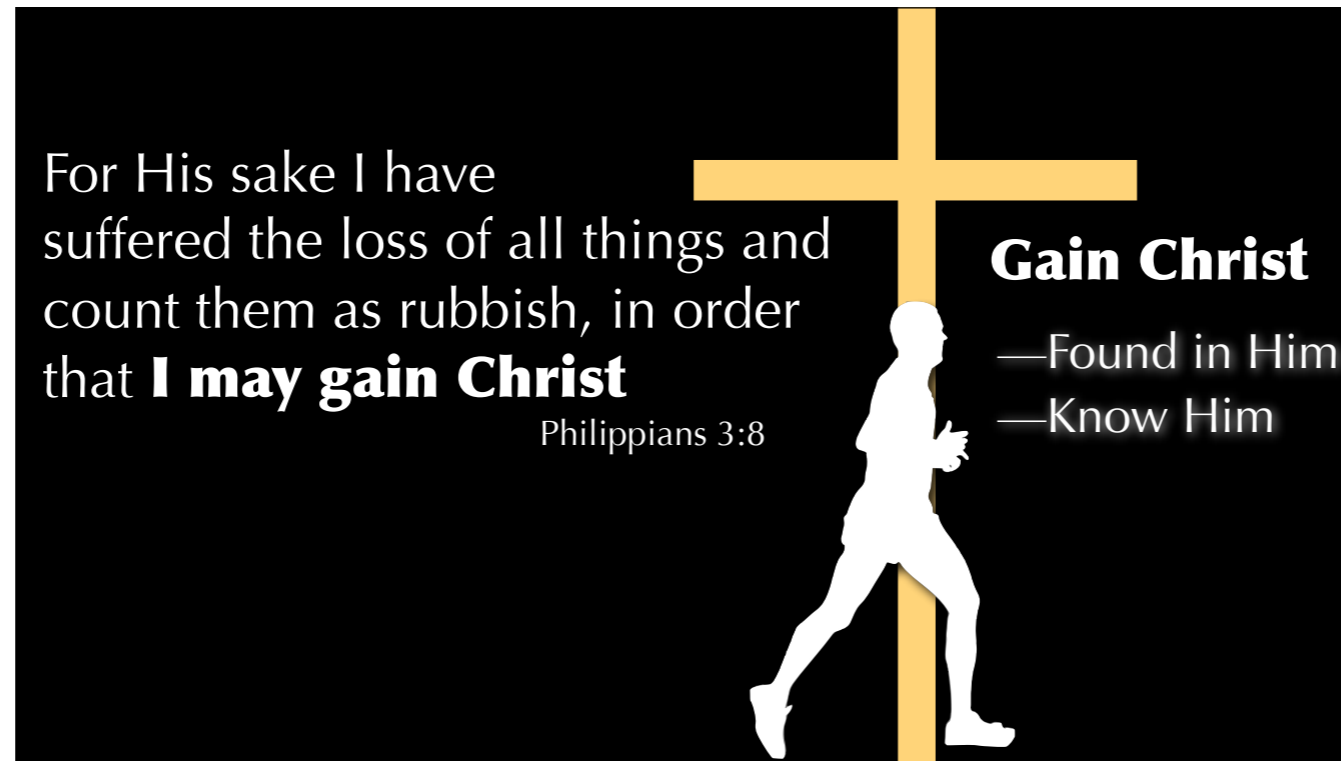
Philippians 3:8



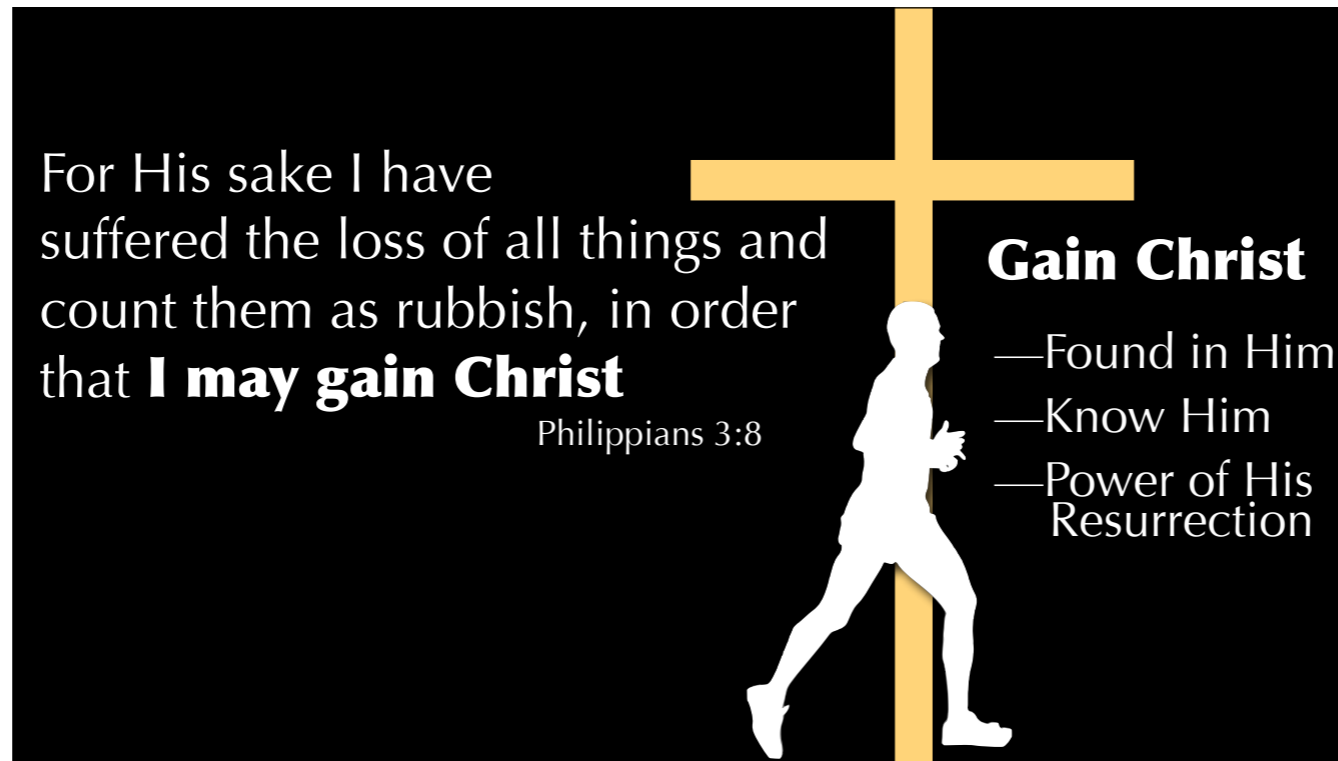
Gain Christ

—Found in Him

- be found in him
 - Lost sheep
 - Relationship



- I may know him
 - Intimate relationship
 - John 10:14-15 (ESV) 14 I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me**, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.
 - 2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV) 19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: **"The Lord knows those who are his,"** and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."



For His sake I have
suffered the loss of all things and
count them as rubbish, in order
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Philippians 3:8

Gain Christ
—Found in Him
—Know Him
—Power of His
Resurrection

- know the power of his resurrection
 - Salvation!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:17: And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
 - Ephesians 1:19-20 (ESV) 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that **I may gain Christ**

Philippians 3:8

Gain Christ

- Found in Him
- Know Him
- Power of His Resurrection
- Share His Sufferings

- share his sufferings: hated, persecuted, killed
 - 2 Corinthians 1:5 (ESV) 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.
 - 1 Peter 4:13 (ESV) 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

For His sake I have
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Philippians 3:8



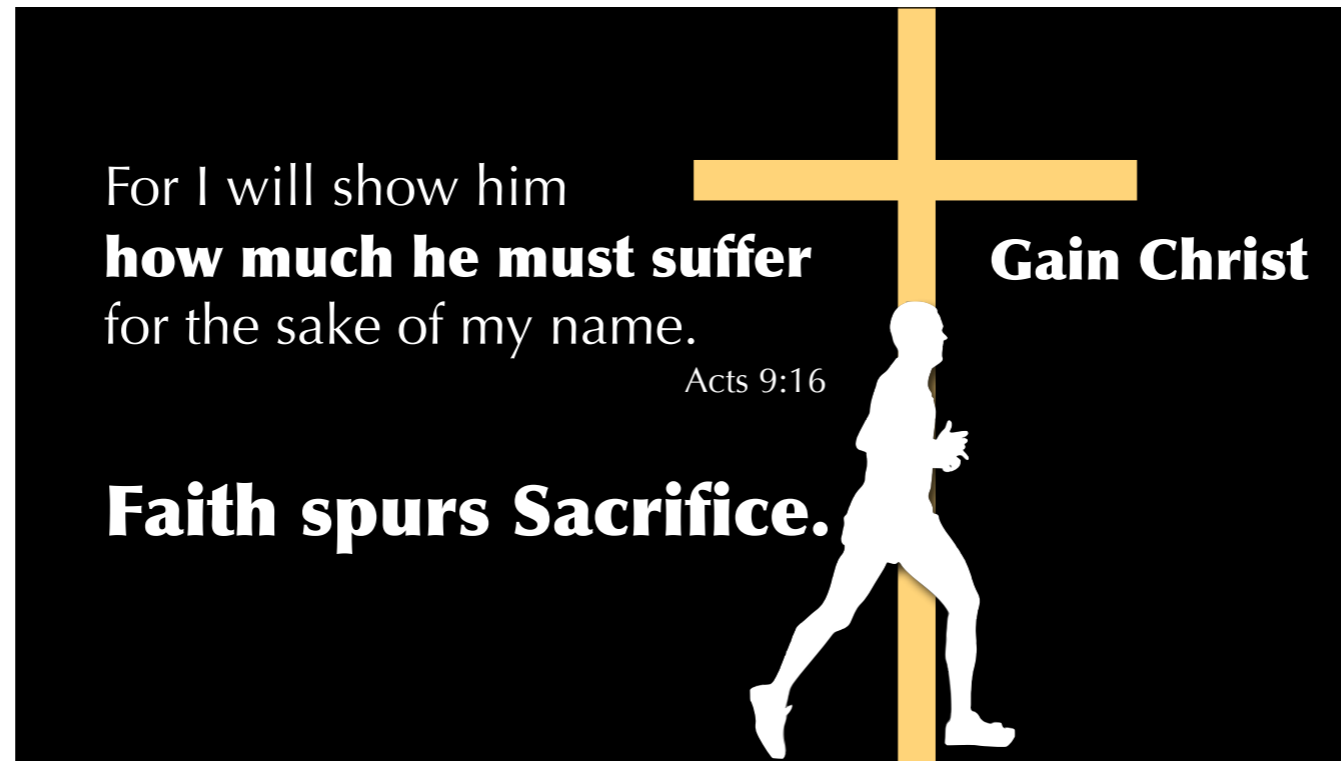
Gain Christ

- Found in Him
- Know Him
- Power of His Resurrection
- Share His Sufferings
- Attain Resurrection

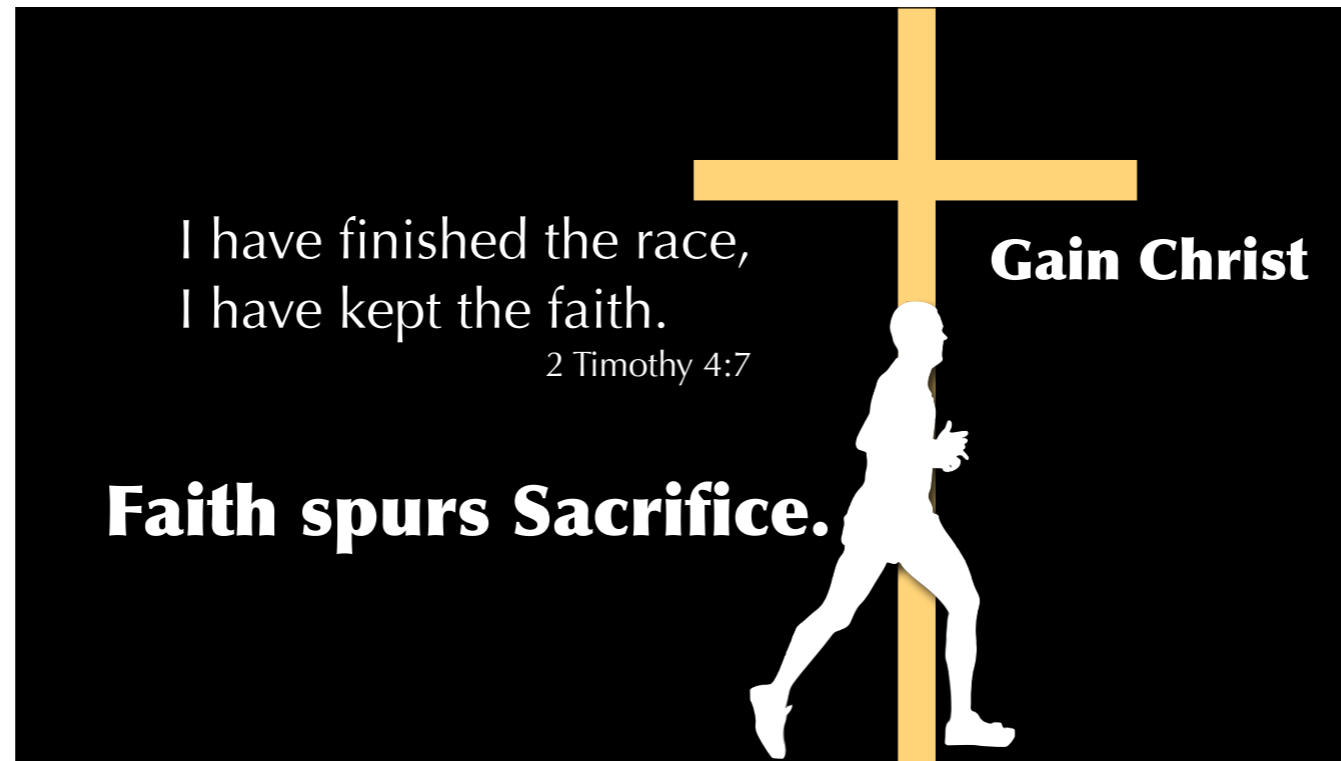
- I may attain the resurrection from the dead
 - Romans 6:5 (ESV) 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:14 (ESV) knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.



- Sacrifice is Gain!
- seems like a paradox, but we see the truth all around us.



- Acts 9:16: For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.
- Faith spurs sacrifice.



- 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- It's not just about beginning the race.
- Have to be faithful, keep running... the whole distance.
- I want to finish the race!



So run that you may obtain it.
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV) 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? **So run that you may obtain it.**
- Run to win.



So run that you may obtain it.
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
... self-control in all things

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.



So run that you may obtain it.
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
... self-control in all things
... discipline

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But **I discipline my body**



So run that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

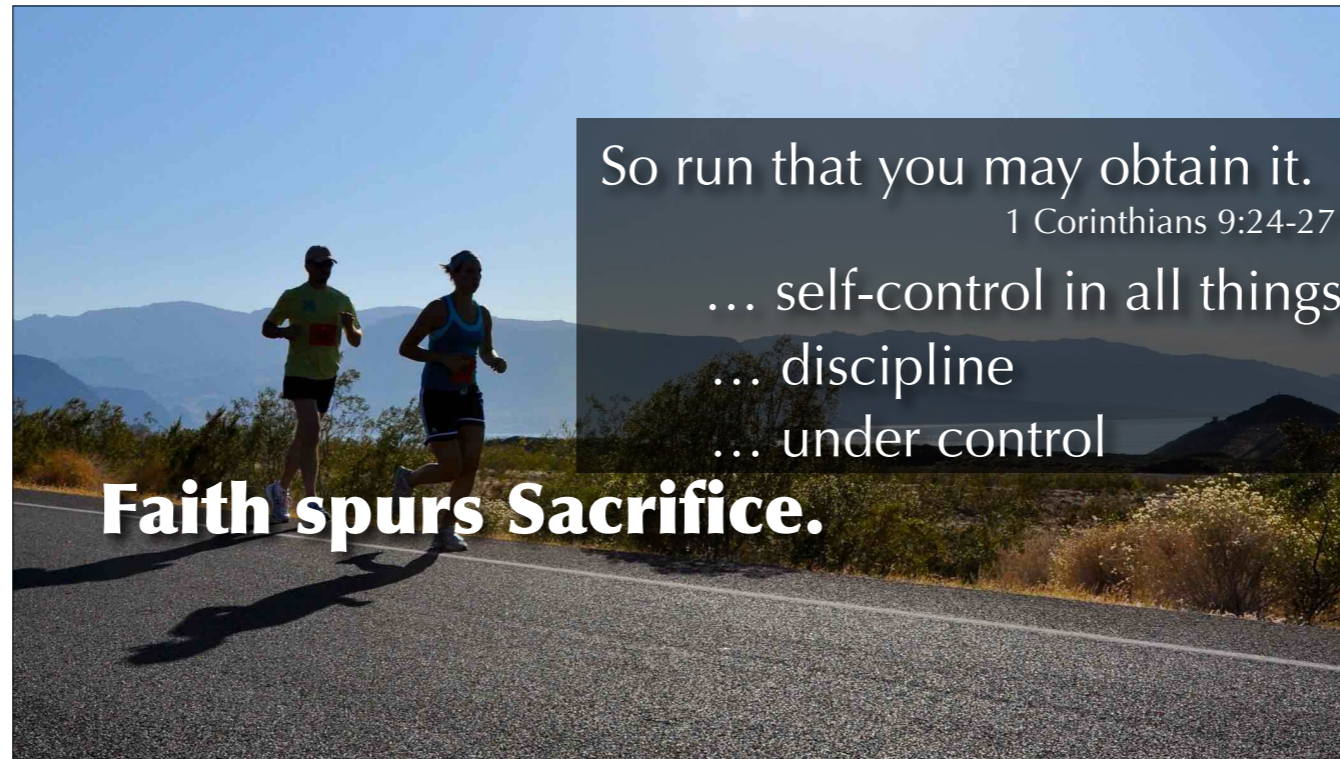
... self-control in all things

... discipline

... under control

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- **keep it under control**, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.



So run that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

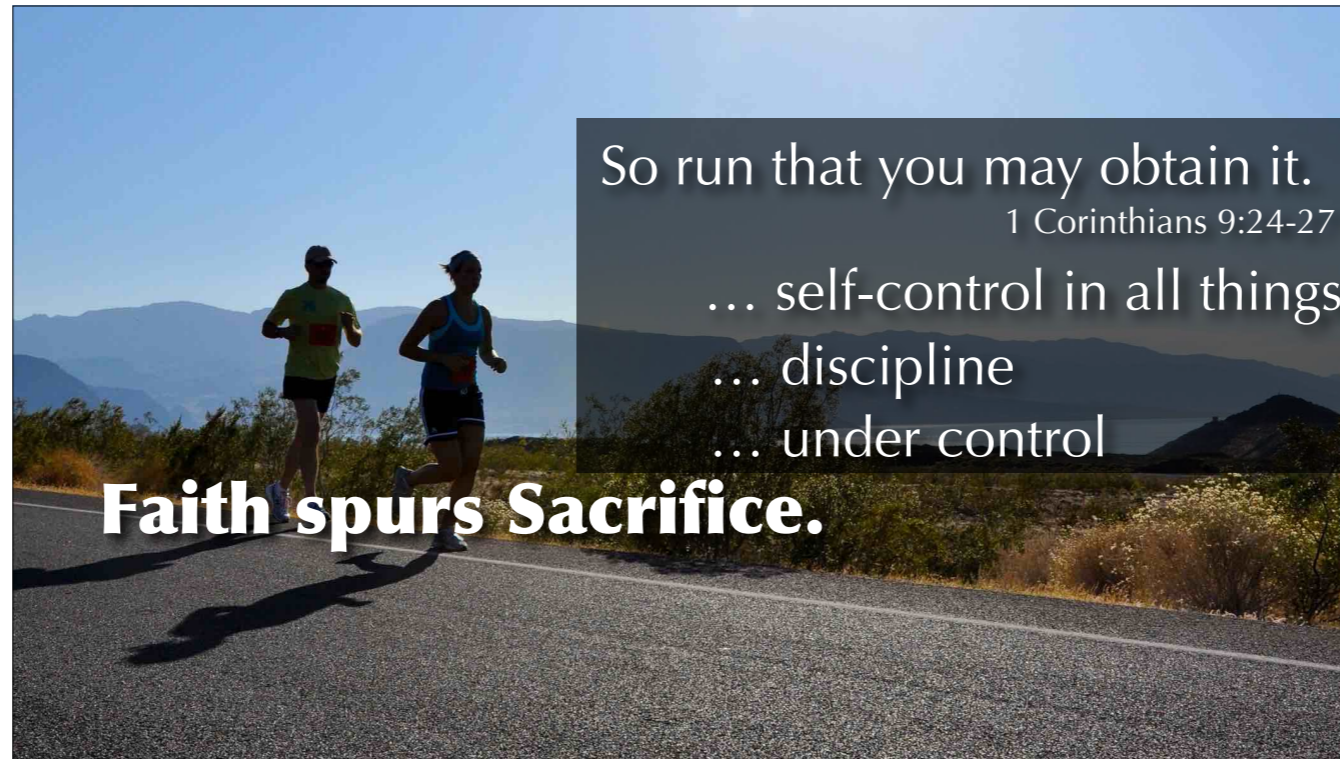
... self-control in all things

... discipline

... under control

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- Runners know that sacrifice is necessary to win.
- Sacrifice is gain.
- Requires discipline and faithfulness ALL THE TIME.
 - no binge watching netflixs and eating a bag of oreos



- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (ESV) 19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.



So run that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

... self-control in all things

... discipline

... under control

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- Purpose: I might win more of them.
 - To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews.
 - To those under the law I became as one under the law
 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law



So run that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

... self-control in all things

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Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak.
- I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.
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So run that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

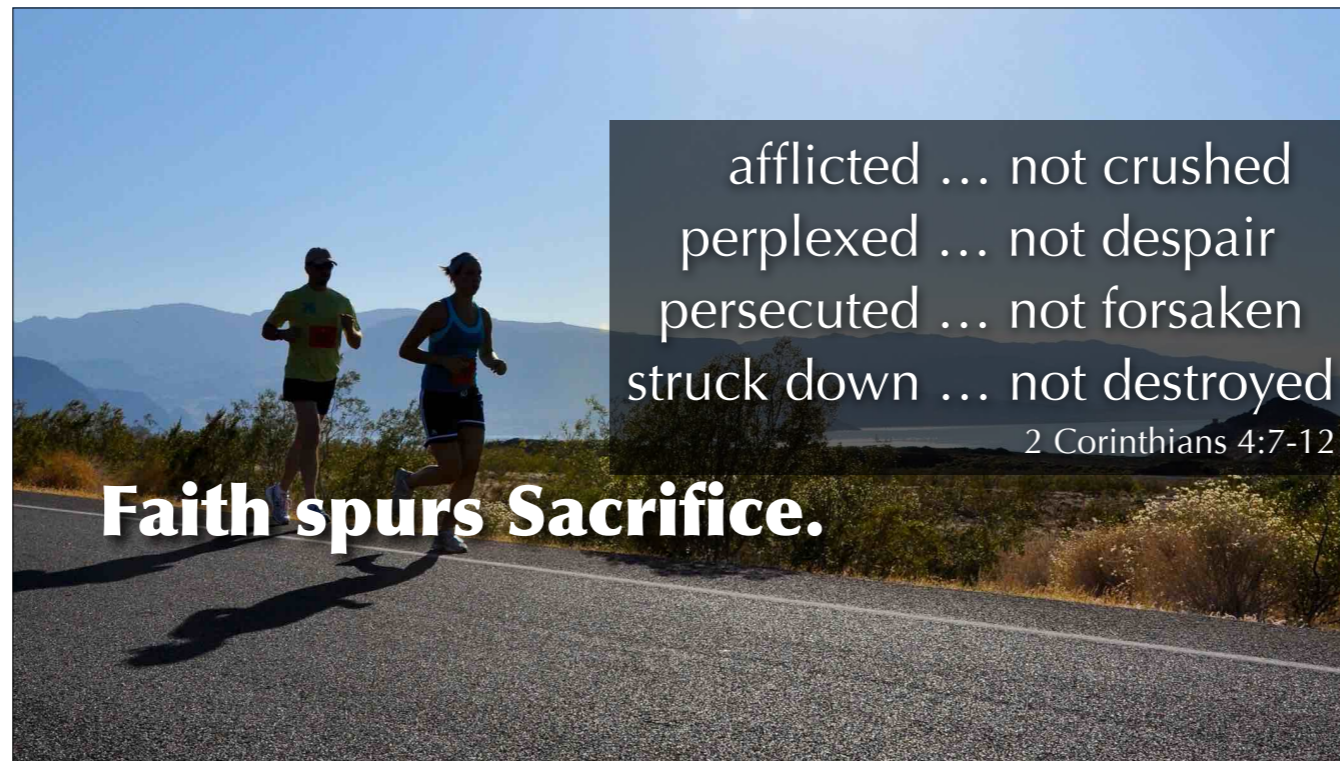
... self-control in all things

... discipline

... under control

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- Paul sacrifices himself — to win others — to share blessings
- Sacrifice is gain... for myself and others
- But I must stay faithful to my purpose;

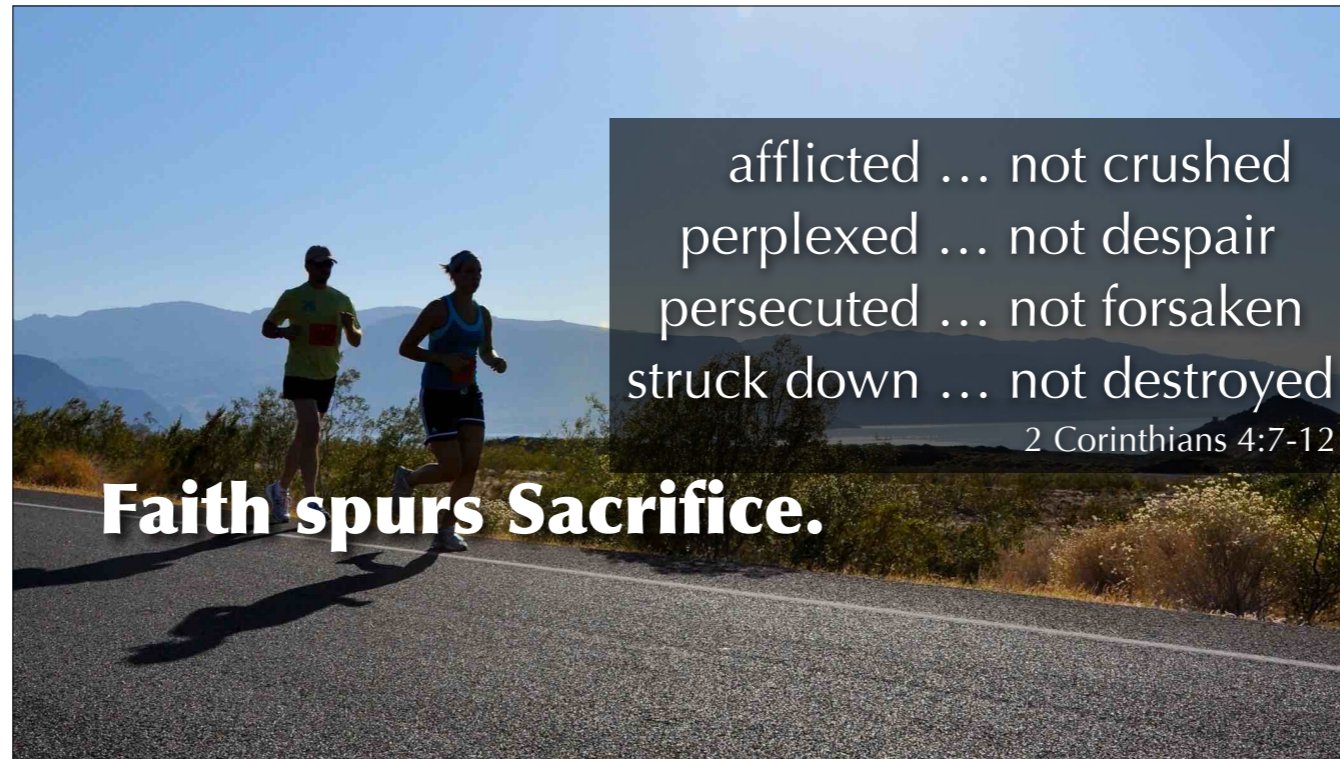


afflicted ... not crushed
perplexed ... not despair
persecuted ... not forsaken
struck down ... not destroyed

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (ESV) 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.

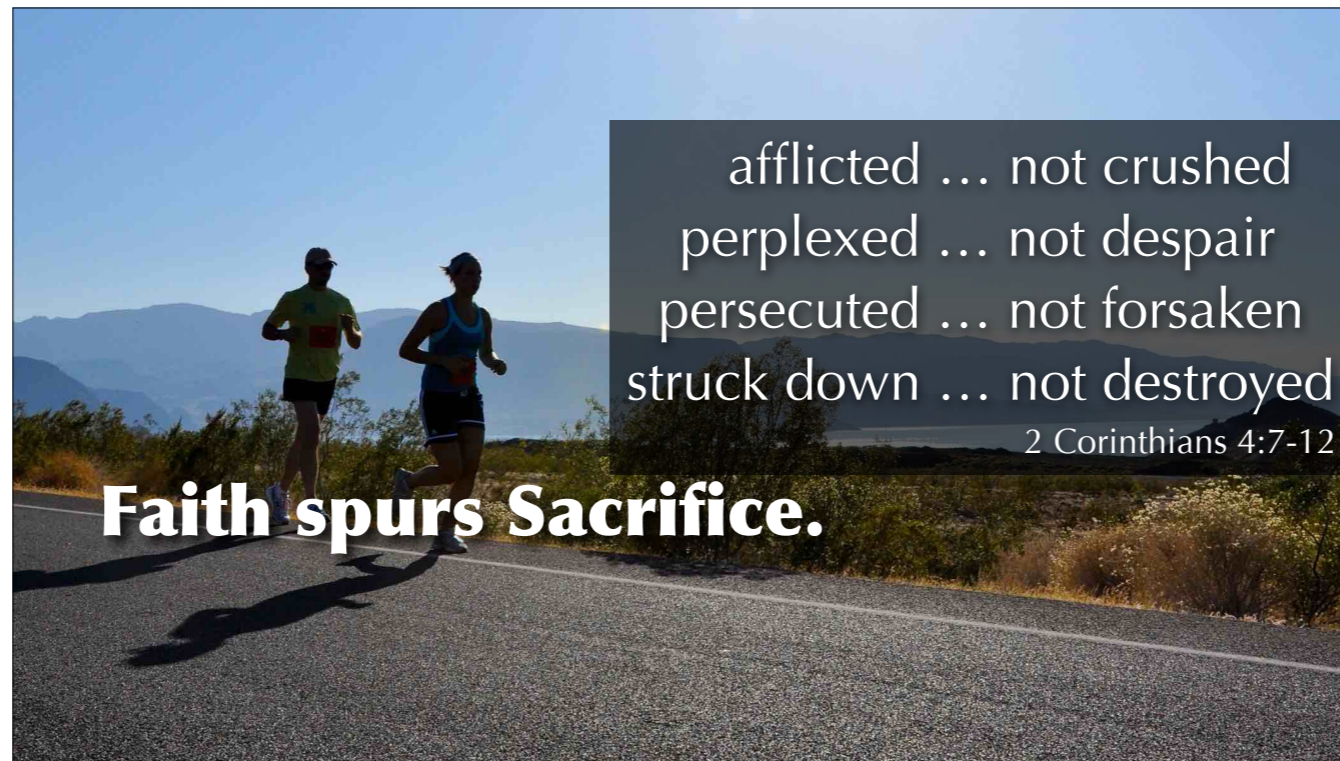


afflicted ... not crushed
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2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- How much did Paul suffer for Jesus' name?
- 2 Corinthians 11:21-29
- far greater labors
- far more imprisonments
- with countless beatings
- often near death.
- Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
- Three times I was beaten with rods.

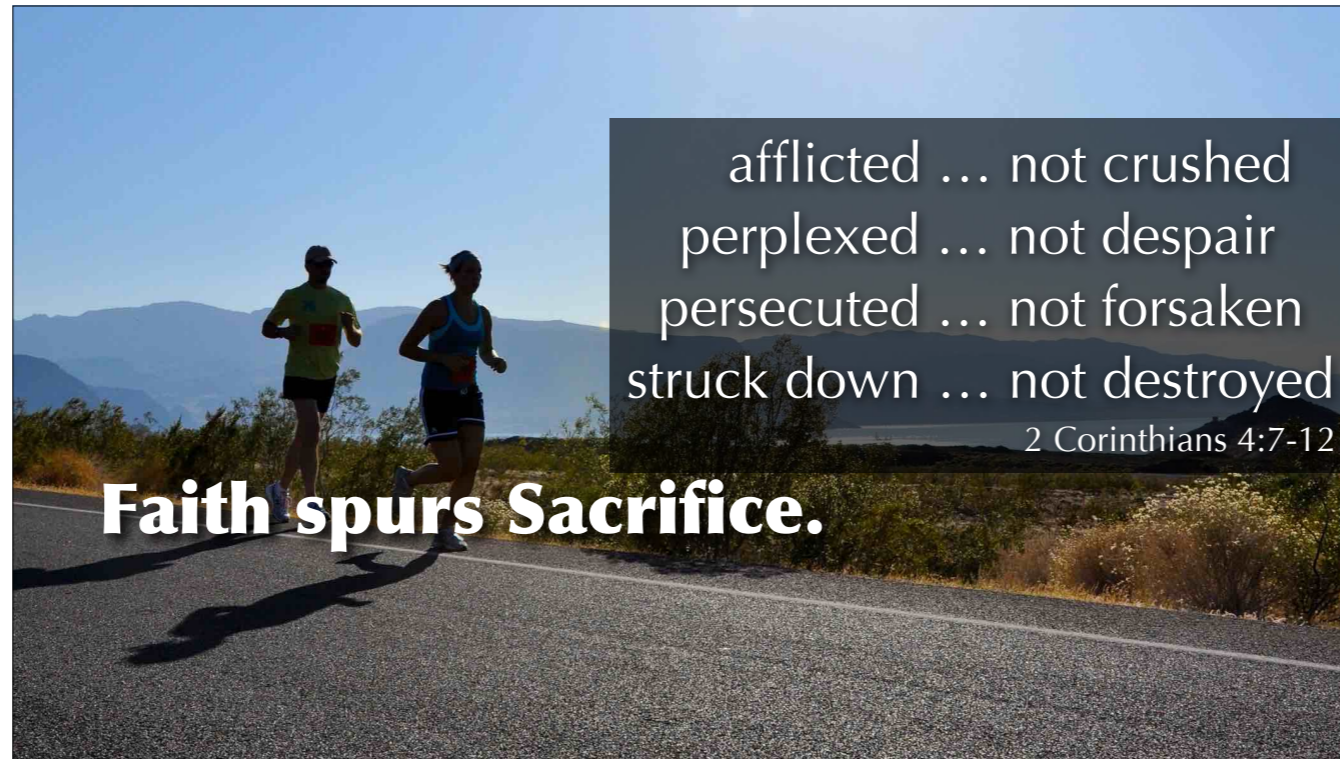


afflicted ... not crushed
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2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- Once I was stoned.
- Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea
- on frequent journeys,
- in danger from rivers,
- danger from robbers,
- danger from my own people,
- danger from Gentiles,
- danger in the city,
- danger in the wilderness,
- danger at sea,
- danger from false brothers

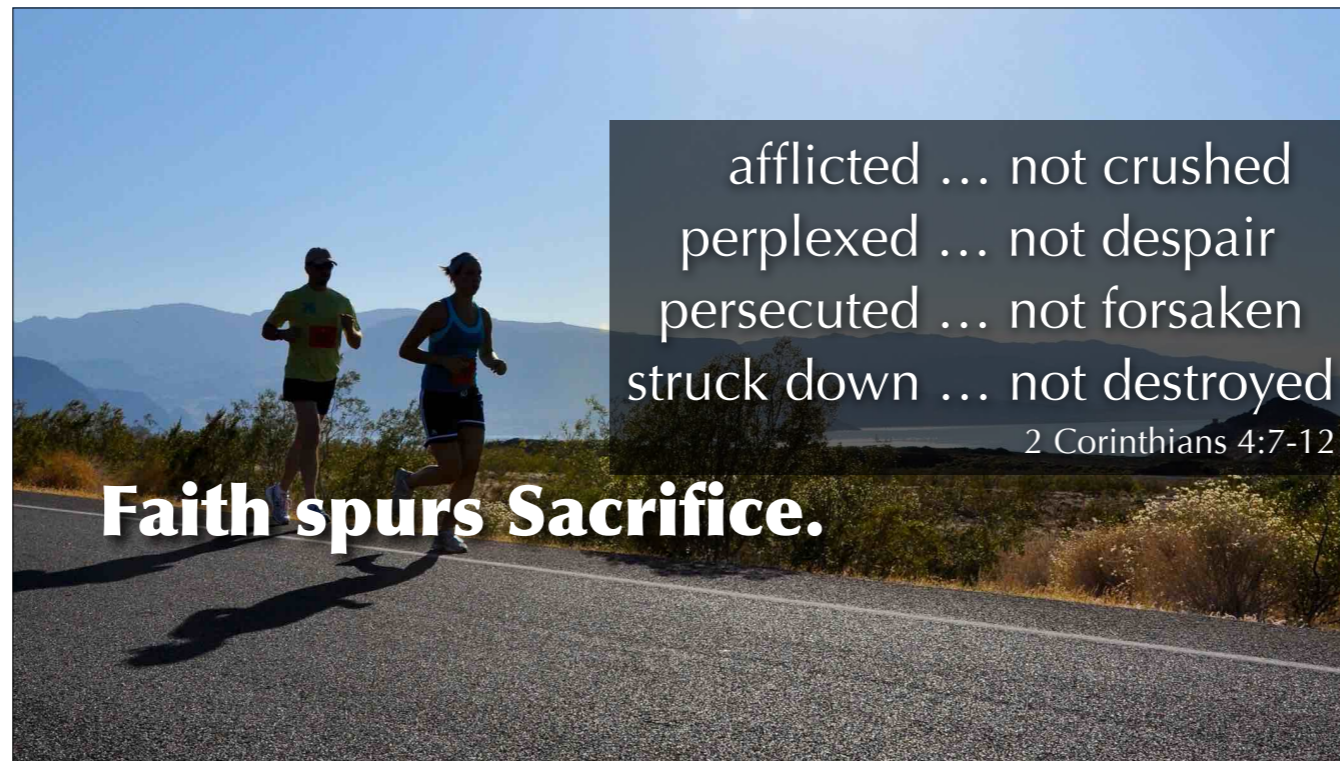


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perplexed ... not despair
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2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- in toil and hardship
- through many a sleepless night
- in hunger and thirst, often without food,
- in cold and exposure.
- daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches

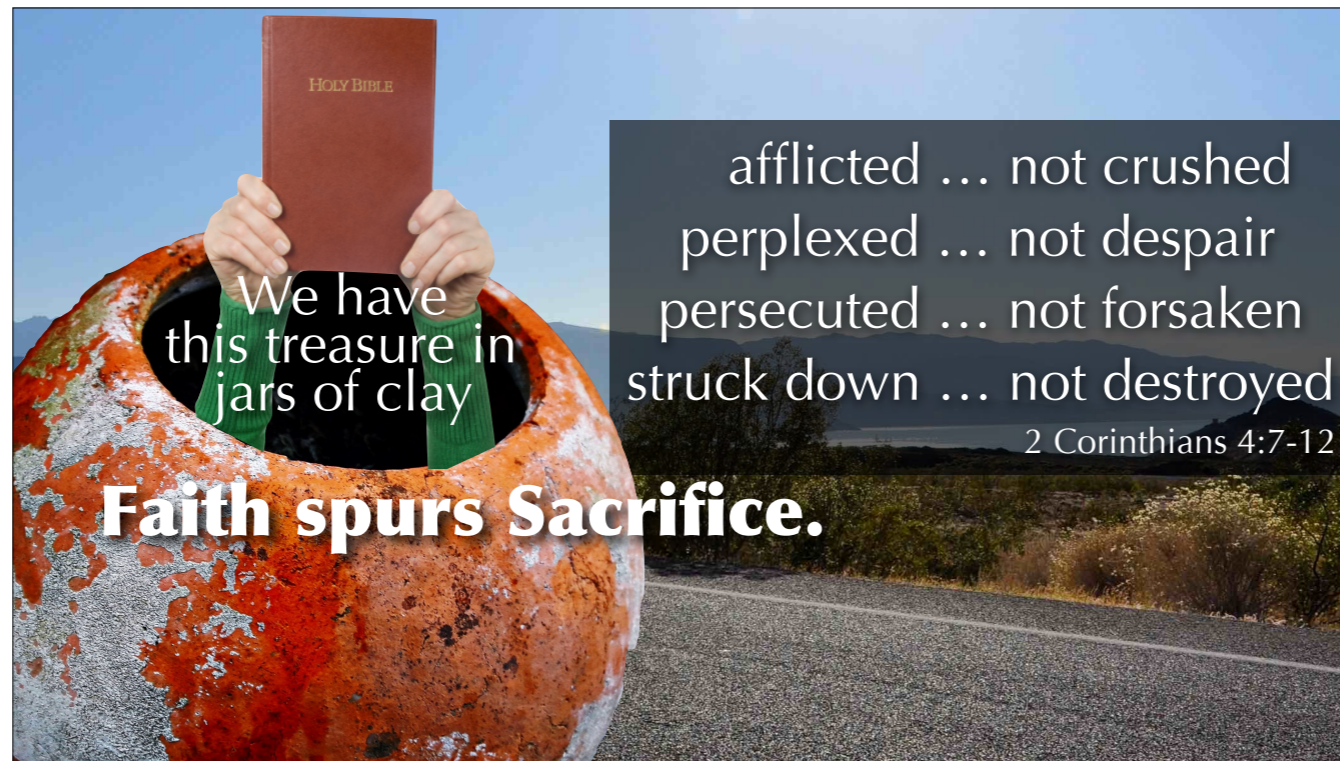


afflicted ... not crushed
perplexed ... not despair
persecuted ... not forsaken
struck down ... not destroyed

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, struck down
- For Paul these were never “set backs”
- not crushed, not despair, not forsaken, not destroyed!
- Always pressing forward!
- Philippians 3:12: Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, **because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

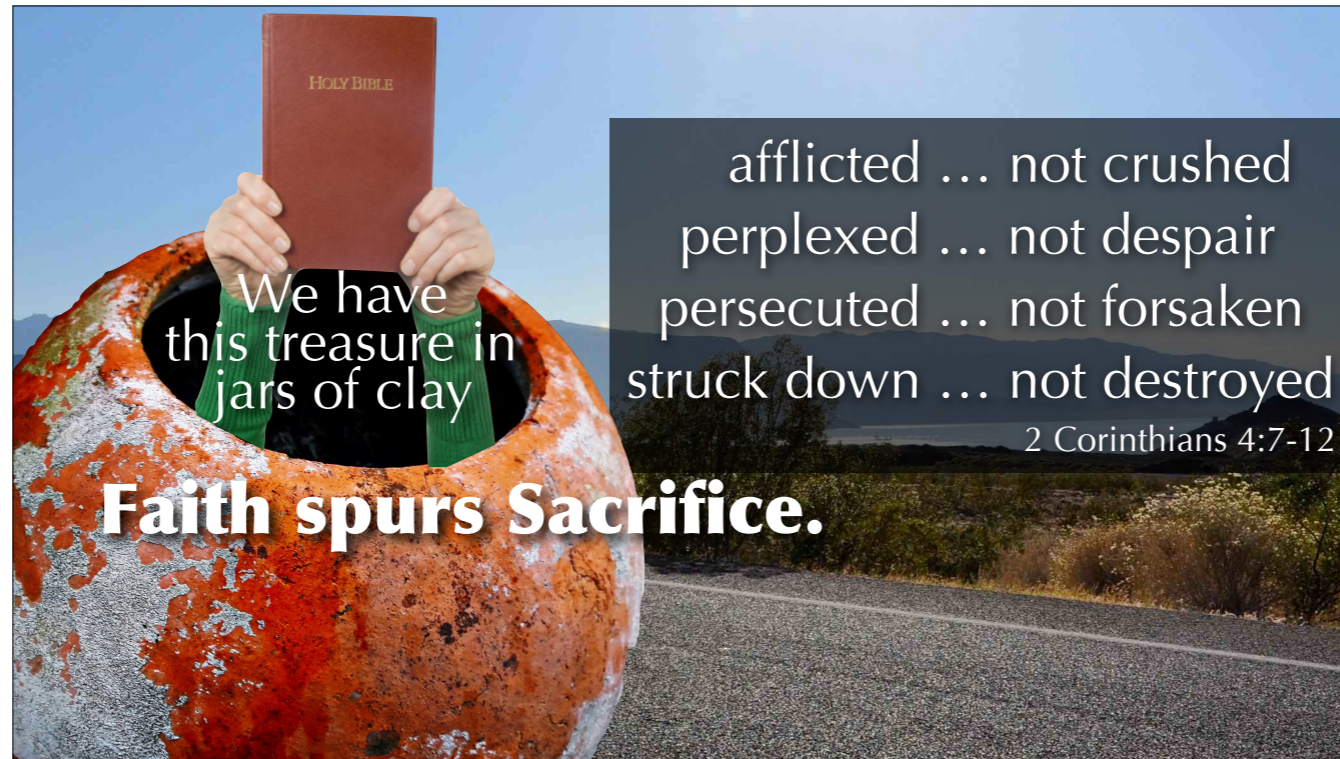


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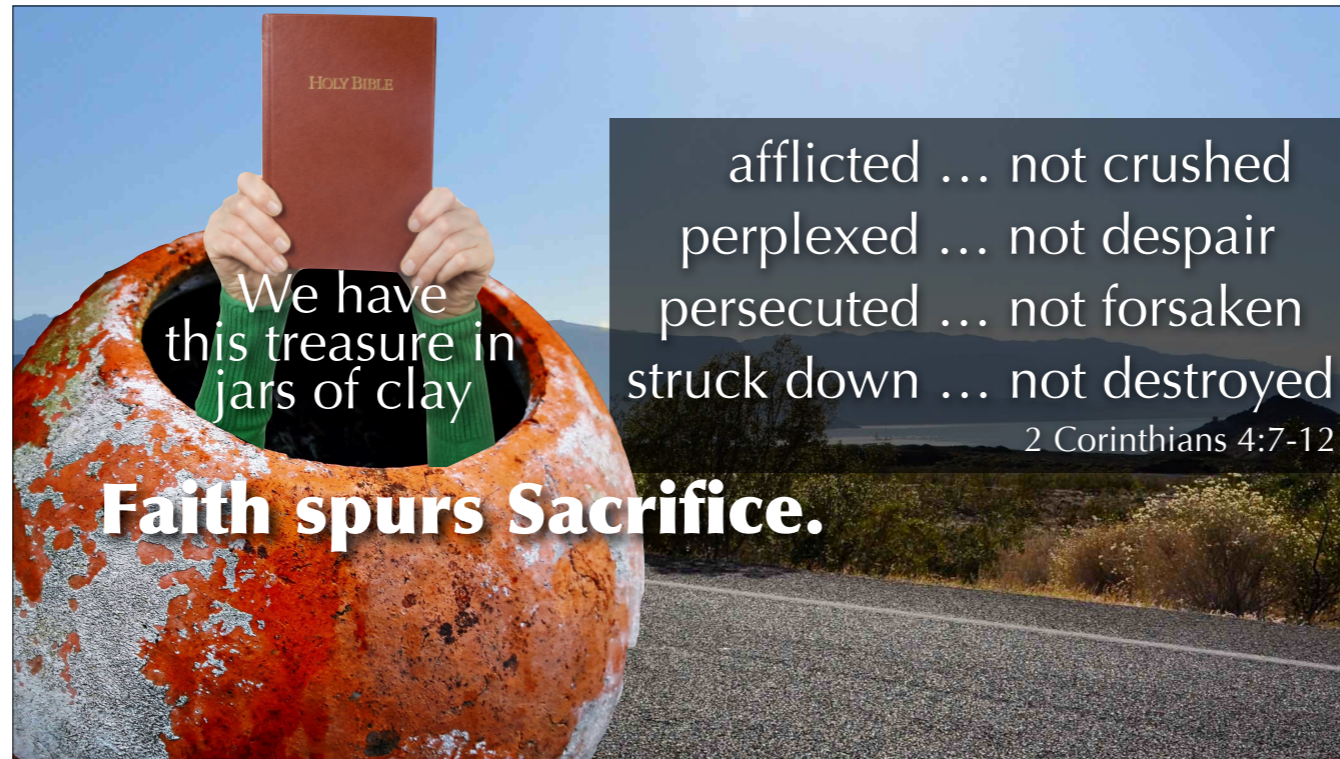
2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- 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.



- Our Father has given us a great treasure...
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 (ESV) 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of **the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but **Jesus Christ as Lord**, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to **give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**.

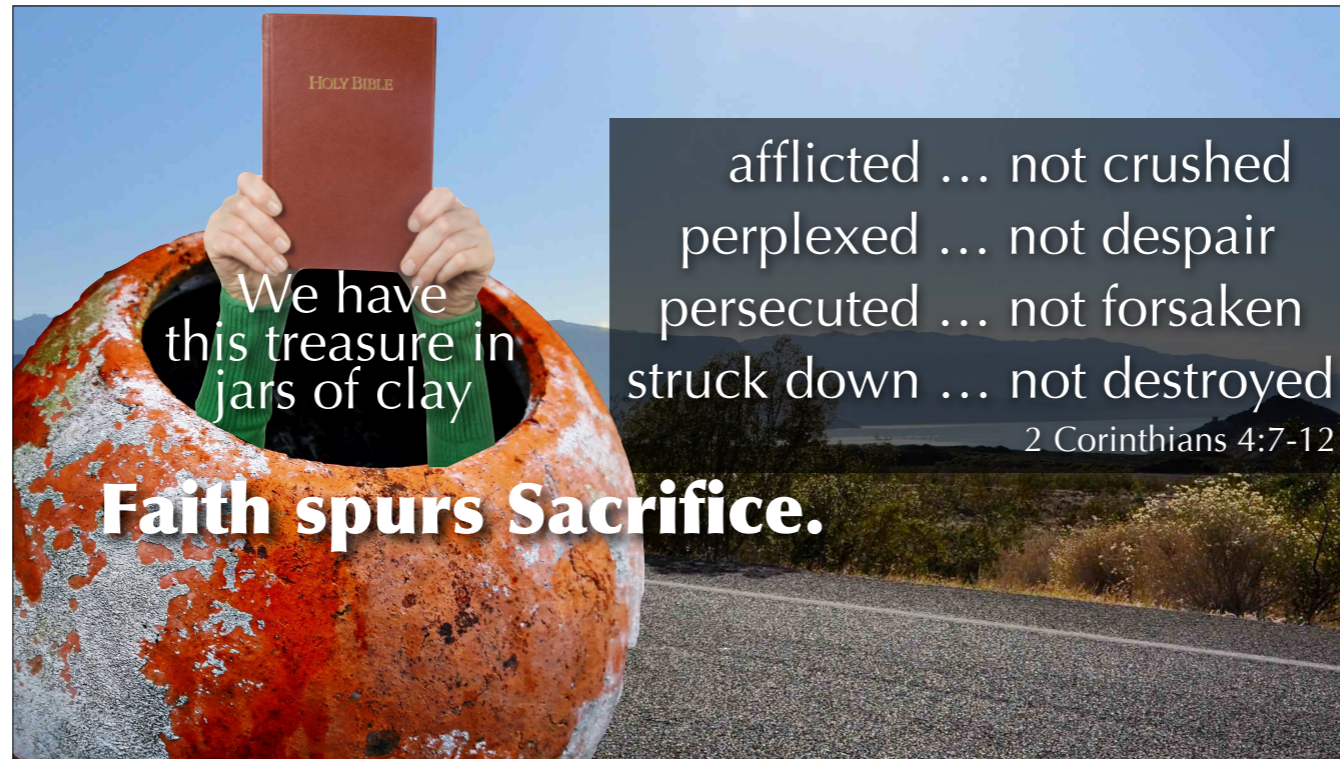


We have
this treasure in
jars of clay

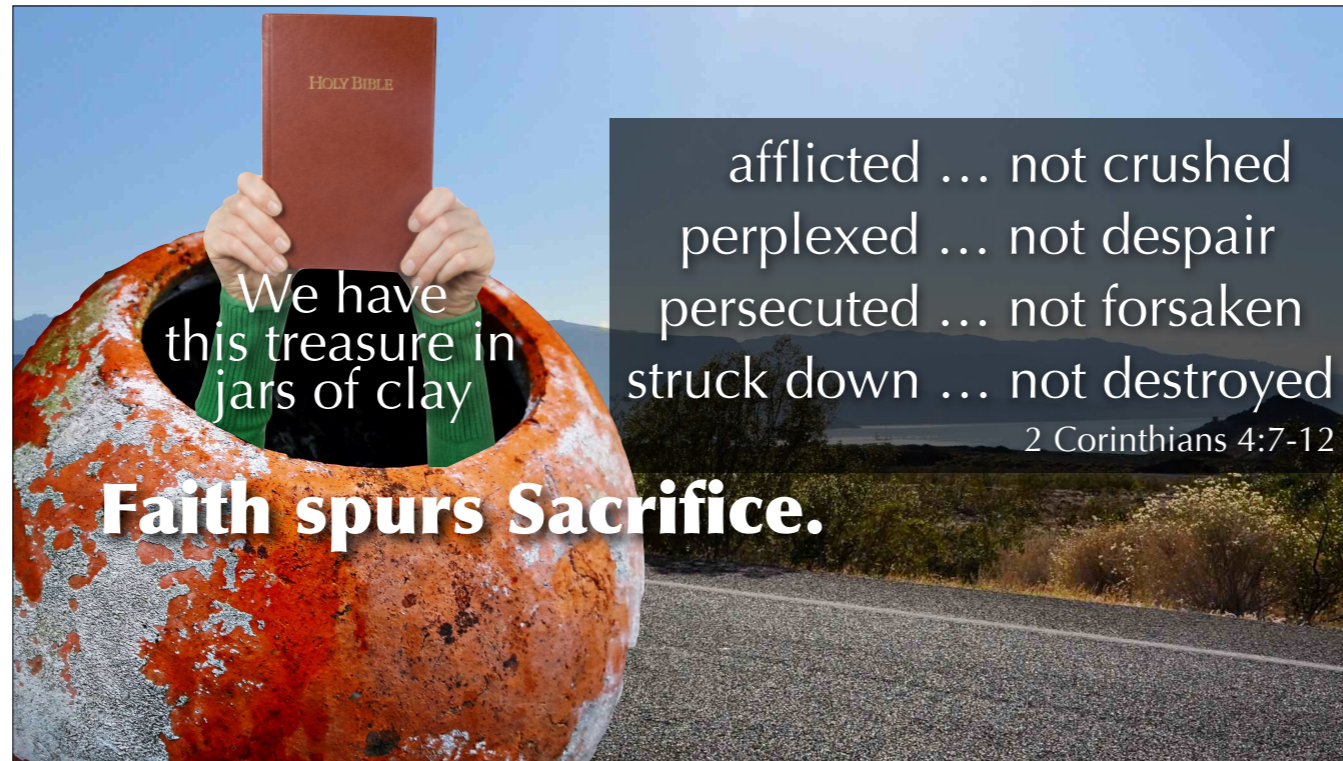
afflicted ... not crushed
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2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

- But we are merely jars of clay...
 - 2 Timothy 2:20-21 (ESV) 20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, **set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.**



- It's not about me!
- Ephesus: Acts 20:24: But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
- Caesarea: Acts 21:13: For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”



We have
this treasure in
jars of clay

Faith spurs Sacrifice.

afflicted ... not crushed
perplexed ... not despair
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2 Corinthians 4:7-12

- Sacrificing a jar of clay (myself) is nothing.
- It's the treasure inside that matters.



Faith spurs Sacrifice.
everything ... and nothing

- If it's not about me, it's not a "sacrifice"
- The paradox of a faith prompted sacrifice is that it costs everything ... and nothing.



- Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV) 44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.



- Hebrews 11:17-19 (ESV) 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.



- But I could never sacrifice my child!
- What you're saying is "I don't really trust God!"
- Sacrifice is gain!



Faith spurs Sacrifice.
everything ... and nothing

- Because I trust in God
- I willingly sacrifice everything to Gain Christ.
- And gaining Christ means that all I've sacrificed is nothing.



- Sacrifice is gain.

**Does God want me
to sacrifice like Paul?**



All Things

- Does God want me to sacrifice like Paul?
 - All things...

**Does God want me
to sacrifice like Paul?**

Rubbish



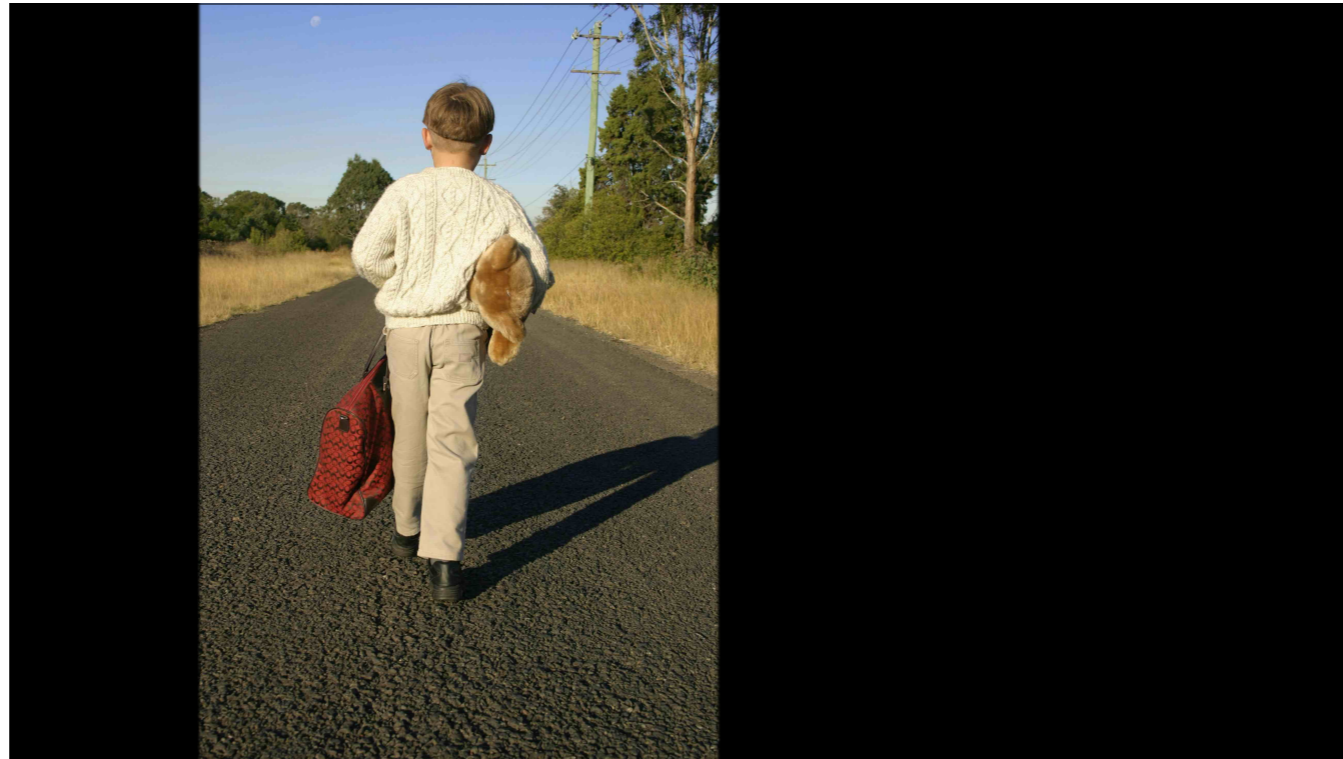
- All things are rubbish ... feces ... ?



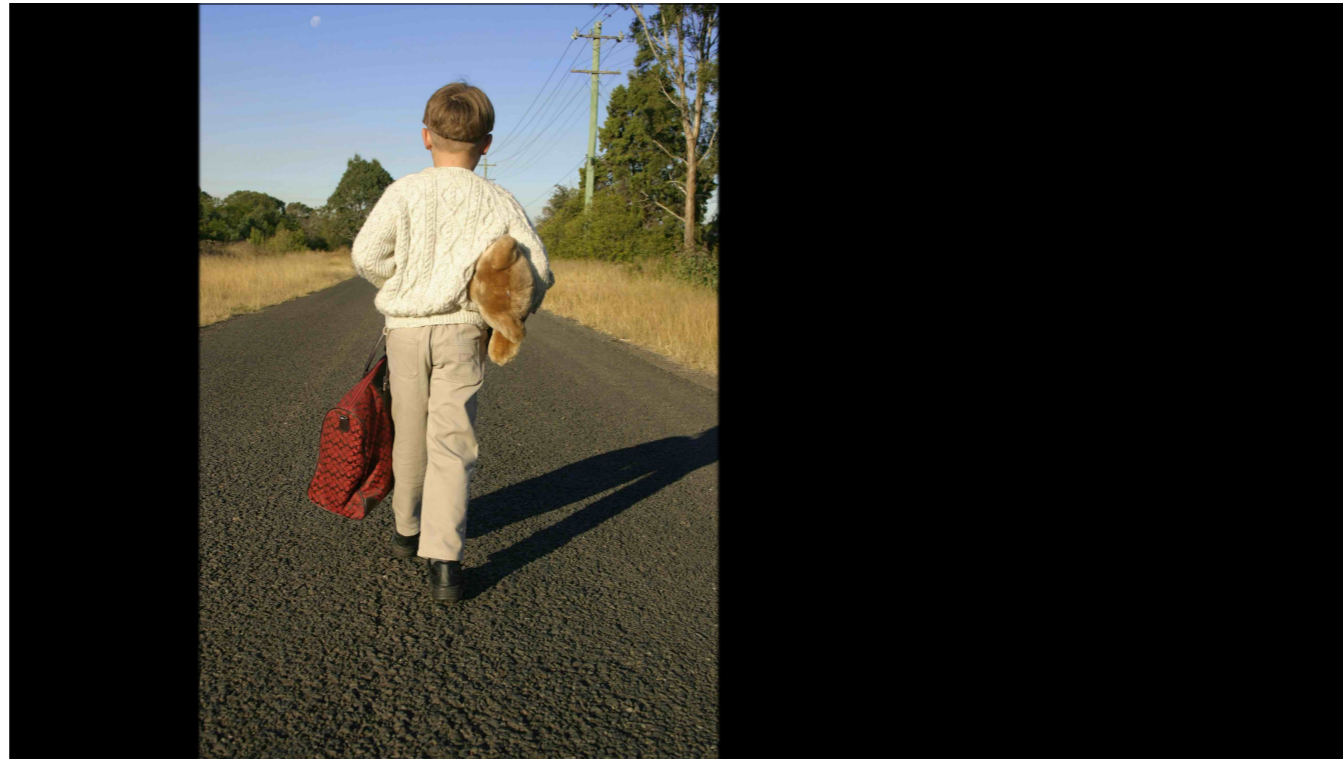
- But maybe it's the wrong question.
- When we focus on the sacrifice we'll always stumble.



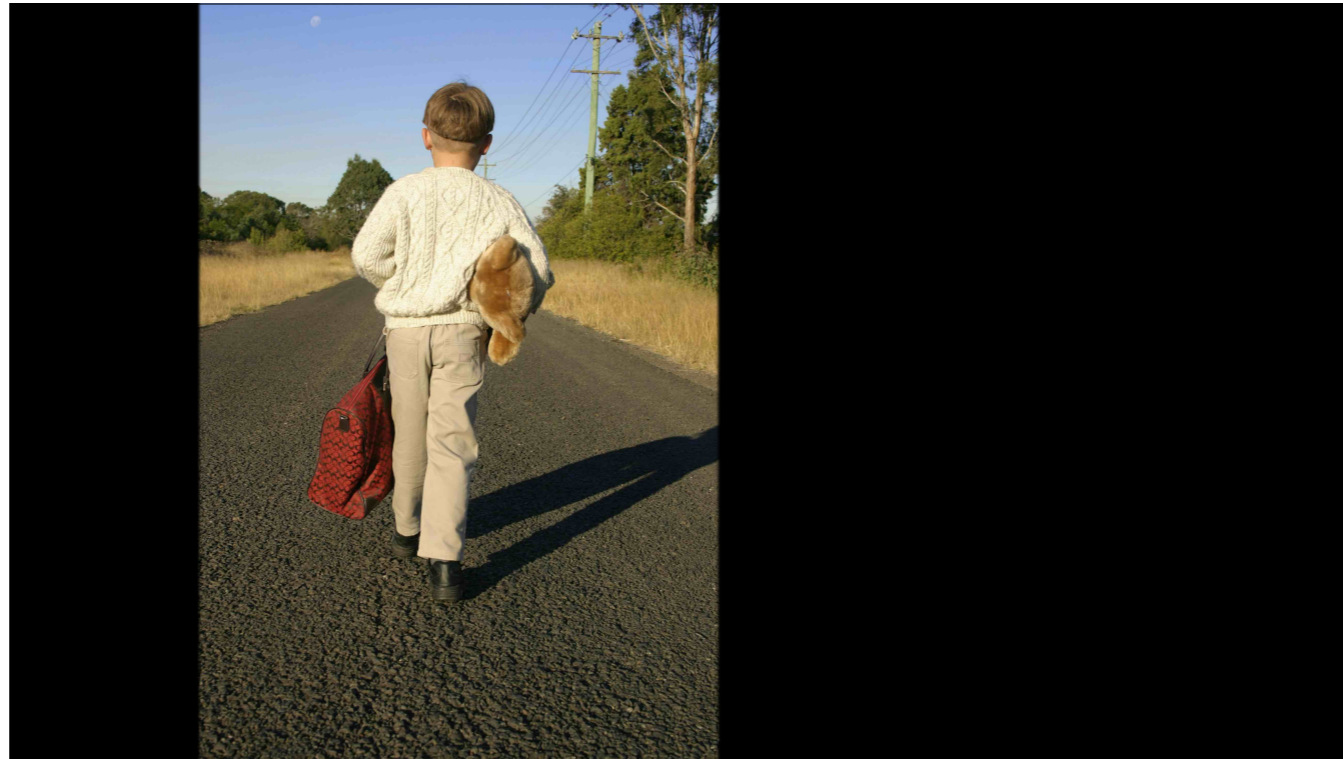
- Do I really want to gain Christ.
- When I focus on gaining Christ,
 - Then the sacrifice of everything is as nothing
 - And in faith I look forward to the crown of righteousness.



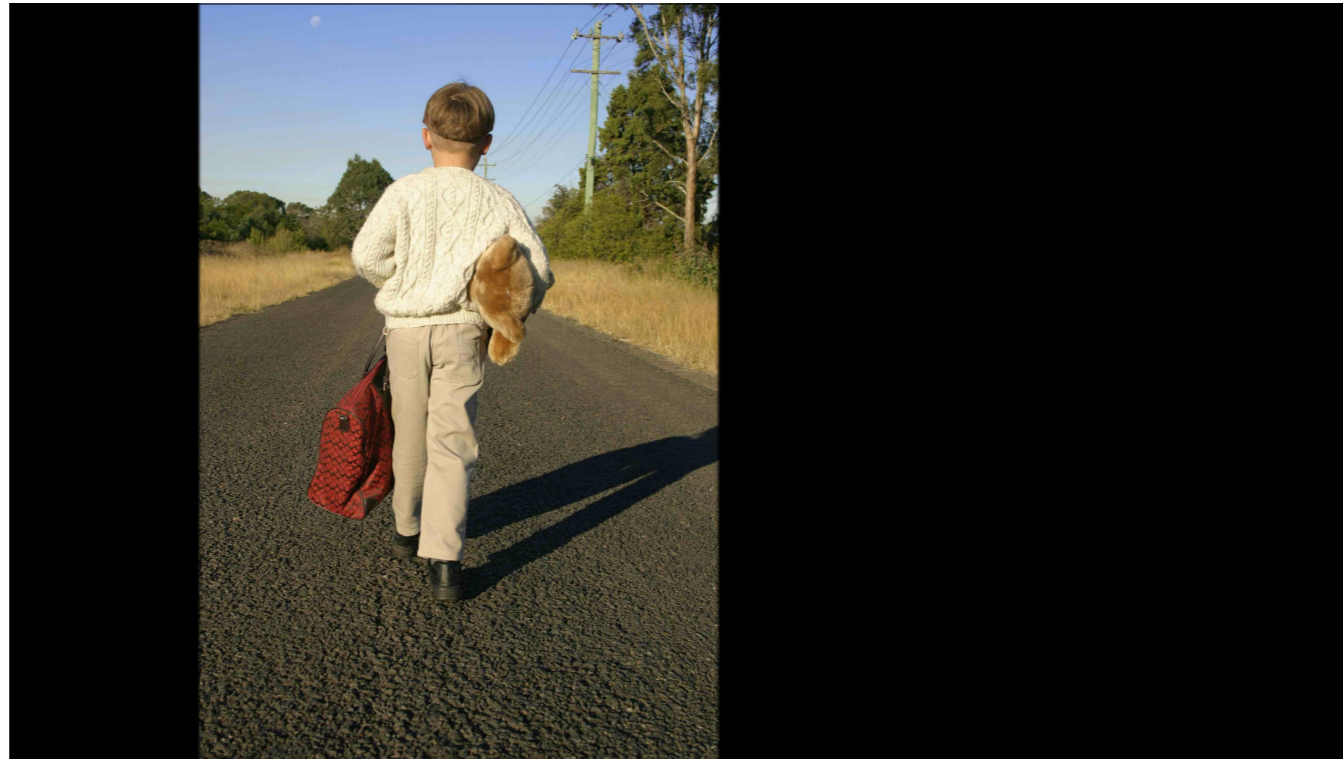
- Mark 10:17-22 (ESV)
- 17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him,
- “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
- 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.



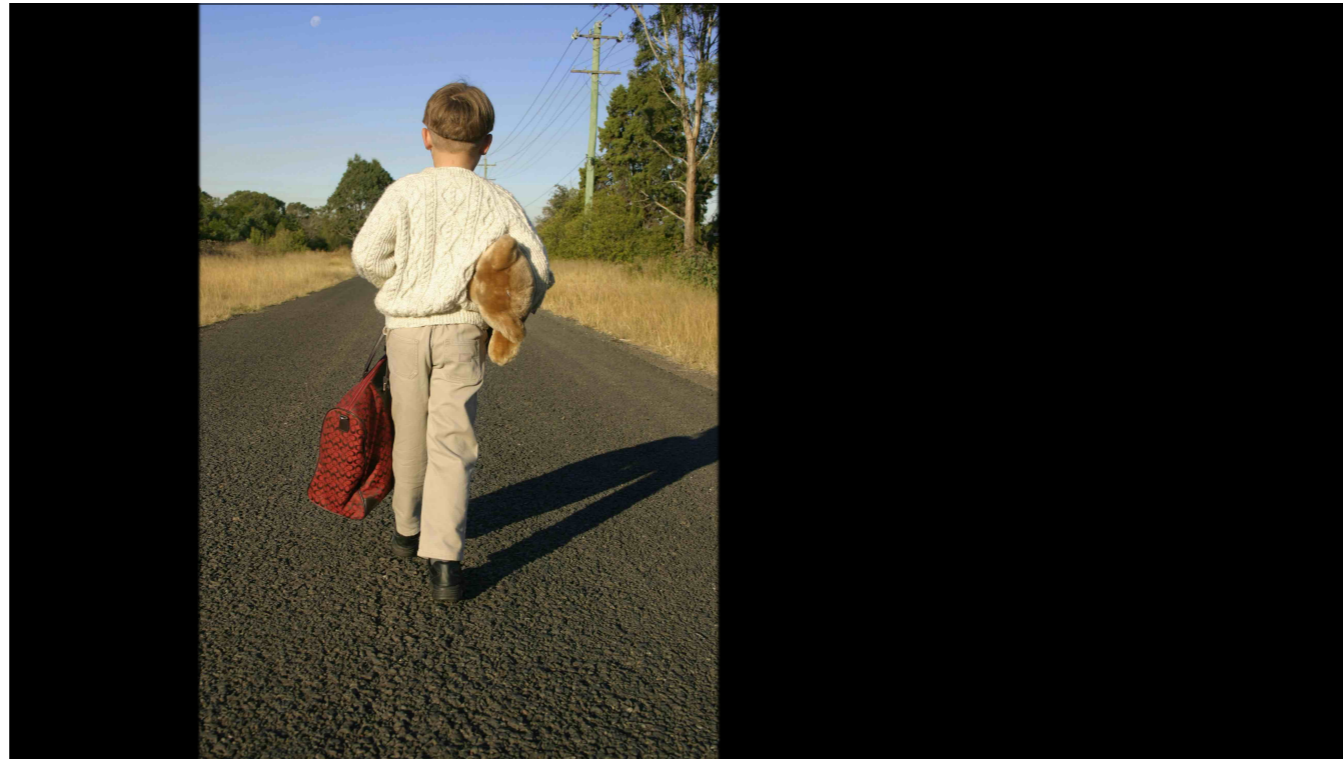
- 19 You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.”
- 20 And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”
- 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,



- “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”
- 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.



- He didn't understand that sacrifice was gain and losing everything is losing nothing.
- We want eternal life.
 - It's easier to just keep a list of rules, check off, repent if needed
 - But to give all... that's too hard
- Rich young ruler: couldn't let go of his riches (didn't trust in treasures of heaven)
- Abraham: son of Promise: God will take care of it!



- But that's when we are most like Jesus!
- Don't walk away sorrowful. Rejoice in sacrifice of faith.



- Gain in this life
 - John 10:10: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
 - 1 Timothy 4:8: for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.



- Mark 10:29-30 (ESV) 29 Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.



- 1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV) 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Do I really
want to
gain Christ?**



- Let go of everything that is holding you back.
- Let go of everything you are holding back — no matter how dear.
- Jesus wants to give you MORE!

**Do I really
want to
gain Christ?**



- Paul
 - Whether rich or poor
 - Without wife and family
 - In prison or free



- Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV) 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Henceforth there is laid up for me
**the crown of
righteousness,**
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that day, and
not only to me but also
**to all who have loved
his appearing.**

2 Timothy 4:8



- Do you trust Jesus enough to let go of it all for the crown of righteousness?
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (ESV) 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Miscellaneous

#03

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
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Panlener Church of Christ
www.1corinthians1614.com

The Reward of Faithful Service

As Demonstrated by Paul
2 Timothy 4:8 & Philippians 3:8

Synopsis: Paul looked forward to a crown of righteousness. He started as an arrogant persecutor of the church, but when Jesus appeared to him, he suffered the loss of all things to gain Christ.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."