

Resurrection Life

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: MAY 15, 2022

Review & Use: 2 Corinthians 4
Our Rules of Engagement for this Spiritual War

Chapter 4 Overview

- God expands the New Covenant benefits through our influence (vv. 1-6)
- Our suffering reveals God's power and expands the fragrance of Christ (vv. 7-12)
- Convinced of our future resurrection, our speech extends God's grace to others (vv. 13-15)
- Focusing on the glorious gospel, we do not lose heart! (vv. 16-18)

1. Who are the opposing forces in the spiritual conflict?

- The spiritual rulers of this dark age
2 Cor. 4:4a ...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers...

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
- The God of eternal glory
2 Cor. 4:6,17... God...has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ...an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison"

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature...

2. What are the enemy's objectives and methods?

- Defeated, the god of this age and his regime are staving off their final doom
Col. 2:15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
- The enemy fights a battle of the mind using intimidation, doubt and conflict
2 Cor. 2:11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

- Human pawns are used to inflict suffering and distract us from the real enemy
Eph. 2:2...you once 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. What are the “do’s” and “don’ts” for our mission’s success?

- **DON’T...fight blind people, focus on the real enemy**
2 Cor. 4:3-4 ... if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel...
- **DON’T...get intimidated into acting like the gospel isn’t true**
2 Cor. 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
- **DO...Continue to delight in your relationship with God through Jesus**
2 Cor. 4:6 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.
- **DO...Keep telling the truth about Jesus, regardless of positive/negative responses**
2 Cor.2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing...
- **DO...Hold tight to the fact of Resurrection and the promise of Eternal glory**
- **DO...Recognize that the power of God is revealed in your suffering**
2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Cor. 12:9... Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

SONGS

“STAND IN YOUR LOVE” - Josh Baldwin, Mark Harris, Ethan Hulse, Rita Springer

“THE LION AND THE LAMB” - Leeland Mooring, Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson

“WAY MAKER” – Osinachi Okoro

“FOREVER” – Chris Tomlin

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 49,777.09

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$660,133.82

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$685,767.00