

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



2 Corinthians 4:1-6 (NIV) “Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.



⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."



1. Paul Explains Genuine Christianity

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV) "... we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

- **Mankind is described as "jars."**



1. Paul Explains Genuine Christianity

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV) "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

- Mankind is described as "jars."
- Mankind is described as "jars of clay."



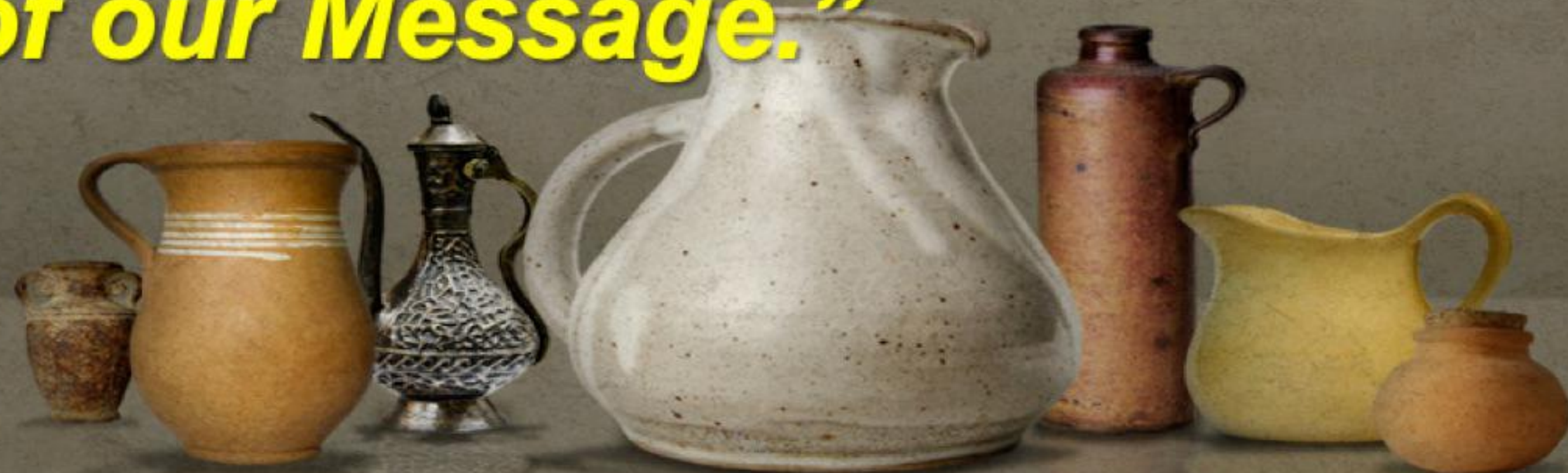
1. Paul Explains Genuine Christianity

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV) “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

- Mankind is described as "jars."
- Mankind is described as "jars of clay."
- Mankind “in Christ” is described as “jars of clay filled with a treasure.”



Colossians 1:26-27 (MSG) “This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. ²⁷ God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you; therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message.”



2. Paul Explains Challenges to Overcome

(4:8-9) “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”



Note the reaction:

(4:8-9) “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”



2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (MSG) "We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, ⁹ but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken."



***Matthew 28:20 (NIV) “Surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.”***

***John 16:33 (NIV) “I have told you these things, so
that in me you may have peace. In this world you
will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome
the world.”***



3. Paul Explains How We Can Continuously Experience This Overcoming Lifestyle

- An inner attitude to which we must consent.

(10) “We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”



- **An outward activity to which we are exposed.**

(11) “For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.”



(10) “We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”



2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



(v. 11) “For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body”

(v.10) “We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”



2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV) “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”



(Verse 11) “For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body”



***Romans 8:36 (NIV) “As it is written: “For your sake
we face death all day long”***

1 Corinthians 15:31 (NIV) “I die every day...”



2 Corinthians 4:12 (NIV) “So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”



***Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV) “Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”***



Philippians 3:10 (NIV) “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) “My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”.



2 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NLT2) ...we live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. 10 Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.”



Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT2) “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”



2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

