

Bible Verses



1

Bible Verses

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.” *2nd Corinthians 2:14*



Memory Verses



2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NIV)

29 But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Psalms 27:4 (NIV)

4 One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

More Than Conquerors
28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

2 Corinthians 4:17 - 18 (NIV)

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.

Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:23 (NIV)

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

1 Peter 3:7 (NIV)

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Malachi 2:16a (NIV)

16 “I hate divorce,” says the Lord God of Israel, “and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,” says the Lord Almighty.

Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Deuteronomy 6:7 (NIV)

7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Psalms 119:18 (NIV)

18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Psalms 119:27 (NIV)

27 Let me understand the teaching of your precepts;

then I will meditate on your wonders.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

[a] Footnotes: Proverbs 3:6 Or will direct your paths

Joshua 1:8-9 (NIV)

8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

21 The tongue has the power of life and death,

and those who love it will eat its fruit.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV)

4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:26 (NIV)

26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2nd Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

1st Samuel 12:23 (NIV)

23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for

works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Ephesians 4:13 (NIV)

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Philippians 4:11-12a (NIV)

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18a (NIV)

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

John 10:10 (NIV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1st John 5:11-13 (NIV)

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Concluding Remarks

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

2nd Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Matthew 9:36-38 (NIV)

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 (NIV)

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you

gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

... 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'^[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b]

Footnotes: a.Matthew 22:37 Deut. 6:5

b.Matthew 22:39 Lev. 19:18

2

Prayers

**“May your day be filled with blessings
Like the sun that lights the sky,
And may you always have the courage
To spread your wings and fly!”**



Irish Prayers



May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His
hand.

Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.

May your past be a pleasant memory,
Your future filled with delight and mystery,

Your now a glorious moment,
That fills your life with deep contentment.

May your day be filled with blessings
Like the sun that lights the sky,
And may you always have the courage
To spread your wings and fly!

May you always have work for your hands
to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or
two.

May the sun shine bright on your window-
pane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow each
rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near
you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness
to cheer you.

Here's to lying, stealing, and cheating!

May you lie to save a friend;

May you steal the heart of the one you
love;

and may you cheat death.

Count your blessings instead of your
crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your
mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Love your neighbor as much as yourself.

May God give you...

For every storm, a rainbow,

For every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.

From Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me
Christ before me
Christ behind me
Christ in me
Christ beneath me
Christ above me
Christ on my right
Christ on my left
Christ where I lie
Christ where I sit
Christ where I arise
Christ in the heart of every man
who thinks of me

Christ in the mouth of every man
who speaks of me
Christ in every eye that sees me
Christ in every ear that hears me
Salvation is of the Lord.

May the sun shine all day long,
Everything go right and nothing go wrong.
May those you love bring love back to you
And may all the wishes you wish come true!

May the blessings of light be upon you,
Light without and light within,
And in all your comings and goings,
May you ever have a kindly greeting
From them you meet along the road.

Dance as though no one is watching you,
Love as though you have never loved before,

Sing as though no one can hear you,

Live as though heaven is on earth.

God bless the corners of this house and all
the lintel blessed,

And bless the hearth and bless the board
and bless each place of rest,

And bless each door that opens wide to
strangers as to kin,

And bless each crystal window pane that
lets the starlight in,

And bless the roofree overhead and every
sturdy wall.

The peace of man. The peace of God. With
peace and love for all.

Here's to you and here's to me

I pray that friends we'll always be,

But if by chance we disagree,

The heck with you and here's to me!

May you be buried in a casket made from
the wood of a 100 year old oak

That I shall plant tomorrow.

May your glass be ever full.

May the roof over your head be always
strong.

And may you be in heaven

half an hour before the devil knows you're
dead.

Here's to the four hinges of society.

May you fight, steal, lie and drink.

When you fight, may you fight for your
country.

When you steal, may you steal away from
bad company.

When you lie, may you lie at the side of
your sweetheart.

And when you drink, may you drink with
me.

Some may say the glass is half empty,

Some may say the glass is half full,

But the Irish will forever say

"Are you gonna drink that?"

God invented whiskey to keep the Irish
from conquering the world!

Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.

May God be with you and bless you,
May you see your children's children,

May you be poor in misfortune, rich in
blessings.

May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

May God grant you many years to live,
For sure He must be knowing
The earth has angels all too few
And heaven is overflowing.

May peace and plenty be the first
To lift the latch to your door,
And happiness be guided to your home
By the candle of Christmas.

May you always have work for your hands
to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or
two.

May the sun shine bright on your window-
pane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow each
rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near
you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness
to cheer you.

"One in Him" Celtic prayer

Lord when I am Disturbed

When I am distressed

When I am Divided

When I am disgusted,

I come to you for healing

I come to you for peace

I come to you for restoration

I come to you for dignity.

Help me, Lord,

To do what you would have me do, to be-
come the person you want me to be.

Sickness Prayers



Prayer for Healing

A Prayer for Healing

Lord, I come before you today in need of your healing hand. In you all things are possible. Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and soul.

I am lost, but I am singing. You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy. Give me the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for me. Guide me towards better health, and give me the wisdom to identify those you've placed around me to help me get better.

In your name I pray, Amen.

Prayers for Healing a Loved One

All our times are in Thy hand.

All diseases come at Thy call, and go at Thy bidding.

Thou redeemest our life from destruction, and crownest us with loving kindness and tender mercies. We bless Thee, that Thou hast heard prayer, and commanded deliverances for our friend and Thy servant, who has been under Thine afflicting hand.

He (or she) was brought low, but Thou hast helped him (her). May he (she) not only live, but declare the works of the Lord!

As Thou hast delivered his eyes from tears, his feet from falling, and his soul from death, may he daily inquire: What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me, and resolve to offer unto Thee the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and to call upon the name of the Lord.

May we ever remember that recovery is only a reprieve and that some day we will go to our rest in the Lord. May we therefore secure the righteous path and live with eternity ever in our view.

To Heal a Friend

Think, o God, of our friend who is ill, whom we now commend to Your compassionate regard. Comfort him upon his sickbed, and ease his suffering. We beg for deliverance, and submit that no healing is too hard for the Lord, if it be His will.

We therefore pray if it please You, that You bless our friend with Your loving care, renew his strength, and heal what ails him in Your loving name. Thank You, Lord.

A Prayer to Jesus for Healing

Dear Lord, You are the Just judge, Holy and True. You are the Most High God. You give us life. You hold all power in your hands.

You are the Mighty one from God who carries the world, and is ruler over all the earth. You Oh Most Blessed One are the giver of life. In you are only good things. In you is mercy and love. In you is healing of the nations. In you is freedom of worry and freedom of pain.

Lord Almighty, You loved us so much. You were sent from your Father, sent to save us from destruction. We truly can never make it to Heaven without the help of Jesus the Son, who was sent to earth to help us.

You, Lord are full of mercy and grace, please forgive us for our faults. Lord Jesus, in you all healing is performed. You Lord are the miracle worker. In your Spirit, your gift of healing is alive. In you Lord we can put our trust that you can heal us, and protect us from the enemy, and death of our soul.

You, Lord are miracle worker for the sick, and for the lost souls. You, Lord forgive us and save us from condemnation. You cleanse us and make us born again new. You give us a clean heart full of peace. You Lord are the Light.

In You is all truth. Your way Lord is the way to Heavenly Hope. Your hands Lord created the universe. You Lord are the True giver of Life. Every child is a miracle of Life. Life rests in Your Hands.

Wrap us as a close knit family, draw us near to you Lord, and bind us with your Loving Hands. Let us be drawn closer to You. You are the Vine, dear Lord and we are the branches. You carry all knowledge and all power. You Lord are our medicine. Your Words Lord are Truth and Life.

Help us put our trust in You. You Lord are the greatest physician. You heal, You protect, You care, You love, You are kind, You are patient, You are thoughtful, You are strength. You Lord are our Creator.

You know our thoughts, our sighings and our cryings and every hair on our head. You are Wonderful and make all good things for us. Heal us Lord, if it be Your will.

Amen

Bible Verses About Healing and Life

Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal.

Job 5:17-18

Psalm 41:3

The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness. (NIV)

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

MATTHEW 4:23

"And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spoke unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing."

LUKE 9:11

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous man is effective and has great strength."

JAS 5:16

Prayer for Loss of a Loved One

"Dear Lord,

Please help me in this time of loss and overwhelming grief. I don't understand why my life is filled with this pain and heartache. But I turn my eyes to you as I seek to find the strength to trust in your faithfulness. I will wait on you and not despair; I will quietly wait for your salvation. My heart is crushed, but I know that you will not abandon me forever.

Please show me your compassion, Lord. Help me through the pain so that I will hope in you again. I believe this promise in your Word to send me fresh mercy each day. Though I can't see past today, I trust your great love will never fail me.

Amen."

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit."

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

"The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, 'The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!'

The LORD is wonderfully good to those who wait for him and seek him. So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

For the Lord does not abandon anyone forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion according to the greatness of his unfailing love."

Miscellaneous Prayers



Franciscan prayer

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain in to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Prayer from Mother Teresa

Lord, open our eyes,

That we may see You in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears,

That we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts,

That we may love each other as You love us.

Renew in us Your Spirit,

Lord, free us and make us one.

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat.

We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to earth. We not only celebrate His birth in the manger, but also the reason for His coming -- His death on the cross. We thank You for providing eternal life for each person who will accept His free gift of salvation.

Father, I thank you for my family. Life is not always easy for us, but we know that You are always with us. As Your Word says, You will never leave us nor forsake us. Thank you for the love that holds us together and for always meeting our needs. Draw us closer together through this coming year. We love You and want our time of celebration to be memorable today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank you God for bringing us together this Christmas, thank you for being there for us and guide us through this wonderful day, bring love and happiness to our hearts, and help us to see through your eyes all the good things in life, thank you God for all the food and loved ones that is here today, forgive us, our sins in the name of Jesus, Amen.

3

Verse Study



The Christians, then, trace the beginning of their religion from Jesus the Messiah; and he is named the Son of God Most High. And it is said that God came down from heaven, and from a Hebrew virgin assumed and clothed himself with flesh; and the Son of God lived in a daughter of man. This is taught in the gospel, as it is called, which a short time was preached among them; and you also if you will read therein, may perceive the power which belongs to it. This Jesus,

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. **2nd Corinthians 2:14**

then, was born of the race of the Hebrews; and he had twelve disciples in order that the purpose of his incarnation might in time be accomplished. But he himself was pierced by the Jews, and he died and was buried; and they say that after three days he rose and ascended to heaven (Apol. 2).

Aristides 125 A.D.

2nd Corinthians 2:14



2 Corinthians 2:14 (New International Version)

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

-
- Does God Always lead us in victory?
 - What does he mean by everywhere?
 - What is the fragrance?
 - How do we spread it?

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 God's Triumph in Christ

By Gary DeLashmutt

Introduction

Read 2:12,13. Paul continues to explain his travel plans. At this point, he begins a digression that continues until 7:4.

Through the use of striking metaphors and analogies, Paul provides us with some of the most vivid descriptions of authentic Christianity in the Bible. Let's take a look at the first one--read 2:14-16.

The Metaphor

This "triumph" is not a motorcycle. When a Roman general won an important military victory, the senate/emperor honored him upon his return home with a "triumph." This was something like a "ticker-tape" parade--you have probably seen Hollywood renditions of this in those 1950's movies that always seemed to star Richard Egan or Kirk Douglas. The following parties were part of these triumphs:

The victorious general and his soldiers usually came first.

Behind him came the incense-bearers. They carried censers of burning incense, which represented thanksgiving to the gods for victory. The scent of this burning incense wafted all along the street behind the incense-bearers.

Next came the captives, usually consisting of two distinct groups:

Those who had voluntarily surrendered and complied with Rome. They were to be set free after the triumph. Those who resisted and were forcibly subdued came last and in chains. They were to be executed after the triumph.

You can imagine how differently these two groups of captives reacted to the incense. To the former group, it represented rescue and freedom. To the latter group, it represented defeat and imminent execution.

Paul uses this image, so familiar to his audience, to describe a spiritual event--the most important spiritual event in this age.

The "triumphant general" is Jesus Christ. He has won the greatest spiritual victory there is. Through his death and resurrection, he has paid the penalty for our sins and thus removed Satan's claim to hold us in his rival kingdom (Col. 2:13-15). God is exalting his Son by spreading the news of this victory throughout the world.

The "incense-bearers" are Paul and his band--and all of us who have received Christ.

The "aroma/fragrance" is not some ritual incense--it is the actual Person of Christ himself. We are indwelt by Christ through the Holy Spirit, and his spiritual life actually comes out through us to exert a powerful spiritual influence on others.

The "captives" are the people who come into contact with Christ through us. They are polarized into two distinct groups. The difference between these two groups is not the fragrance (it is the same); it is their heart attitude toward God:

To those who are volitionally self-sufficient ("those who are perishing"), the life of Christ is offensive because it exposes their volitional alienation from God and pronounces their judgment ("from death to death"). But to those who are willing to admit their need for God ("those who are being saved"), the life of Christ is a sweet savor because it demonstrates the possibility of reconciliation with God.

In short, this is a picture of the normal Christian life--to exude the "aroma" of his life to the people with whom God

brings us into contact, and to watch it impact and polarize people spiritually.

But this does not take place automatically, independent of our cooperation. Not all Christians have this kind of impact on people around them. Some just plain stink--to everyone else and to God as well. Others are odorless--blending into their surroundings.

What we need to know is how to be more "aromatic" Christians, how to allow the fragrance of Christ to go out through us . . .

John Calvin

14. But thanks be to God

Here he again glories in the success of his ministry, and shows that he had been far from idle in the various places he had visited; but that he may do this in no invidious way, he sets out with a thanksgiving, which we shall find him afterwards repeating. Now he does not, in a spirit of ambition, extol his own actions, that his name may be held in renown, nor does he, in mere pretense, give thanks to God in the manner of the Pharisee, while lifted up, in the mean time, with pride and arrogance. (Luke 18:11.) Instead of this, he desires from his heart, that whatever is worthy of praise, be recognized as the work of God alone, that his power alone may be extolled. Farther, he recounts his own praises with a view to the advantage of the Corinthians, that, on hearing that he had served the Lord with so much fruit in other places, they may not allow his labor to be unproductive among themselves, and may learn to respect his ministry, which God everywhere rendered so glorious and fruitful. For what God so illustriously honors, it is criminal to despise, or lightly esteem. Nothing was more injurious to the Corinthians, than to have an unfavorable view of Paul's Apostleship and doctrine: nothing, on the other hand, was more advantageous, than to hold both in esteem. Now he had begun to be held in contempt by many, and hence, it was not his duty to be silent. In addition to this, he sets this holy boasting in opposition to the revilings of the wicked.

Who causeth us to triumph

If you render the word literally, it will be, Qui nos triumphat — Who triumpheth over us. “Qui triomphe tousiours de nous;” — “Who always triumpheth over us.” Paul, however, means something different from what this form of expression denotes among the Latins. “Θριαμβεύειν with the accusative is used here like the hiphil of the Hebrew in the same way as μαθητεύειν (to make a disciple) (Matthew 13:52.) βασιλεύειν (to make a king) (1 Samuel 8:22) and others.” — Billroth on the Corinthians. — Bib. Cab. No. 23, p. 181

The meaning is — “maketh us to triumph.” — Ed. For captives are said to be triumphed over, when, by way of disgrace, they are bound with chains and dragged before the chariot of the conqueror. Paul’s meaning, on the other hand, is, that he was also a sharer in the triumph enjoyed by God, because it had been gained by his instrumentality, just as the lieutenants accompanied on horseback the chariot of the chief general, as sharers in the honor. On such occasions the legati (lieutenants) of the general, and military tribunes, commonly rode by his side. (See Cic. Pis. 25.) — Ed. As, accordingly, all the ministers of the gospel fight under God’s auspices, so they also procure for him the victory and the honor of the triumph;

“A triumph among the Romans, to which the Apostle here alludes, was a public and solemn honor conferred by them on a victorious general, by allowing him a magnificent procession through the city. This was not granted by the senate unless the general had gained a very signal and decisive victory; conquered a province, etc. [...] The people at Corinth were sufficiently acquainted with the nature of a triumph: about two hundred years before this, Lucius Mummius, the Roman consul, had conquered all Achaia, destroyed Corinth, Thebes, and Chalcis; and, by order of the senate, had a grand triumph, and was surnamed Achaicus.” — Dr. A. Clarke. — Ed. but, at the same time, he honors each of them with a share of the triumph, according to the station assigned him in the army, and proportioned to the exertions made by him. Thus they enjoy, as it were, a triumph, but it is God’s rather than theirs. “C’est plustot au nom de Dieu, que en leur propre nom;” — “It is in God’s name, rather than in their own.”

He adds, in Christ,

in whose person God himself triumphs, inasmuch as he has conferred upon him all the glory of empire. Should any one

prefer to render it thus: “Who triumphs by means of us,” even in that way a sufficiently consistent meaning will be made out.

The odor of his knowledge.

The triumph consisted in this, that God, through his instrumentality, wrought powerfully and gloriously, perfuming the world with the health-giving odor of his grace, while, by means of his doctrine, he brought some to the knowledge of Christ. He carries out, however, the metaphor of odor, by which he expresses both the delectable sweetness of the gospel, and its power and efficacy for inspiring life. In the mean time, Paul instructs them, that his preaching is so far from being savourless, that it quickens souls by its very odor. Let us, however, learn from this, that those alone make right proficiency in the gospel, who, by the sweet fragrance of Christ, are stirred up to desire him, so as to bid farewell to the allurements of the world.

He says in every place,

intimating by these words, that he went to no place in which he did not gain some fruit, and that, wherever he went, there was to be seen some reward of his labor. The Corinthians were aware, in how many places he had previously sowed the seed of Christ’s gospel. He now says, that the last corresponded with the first.

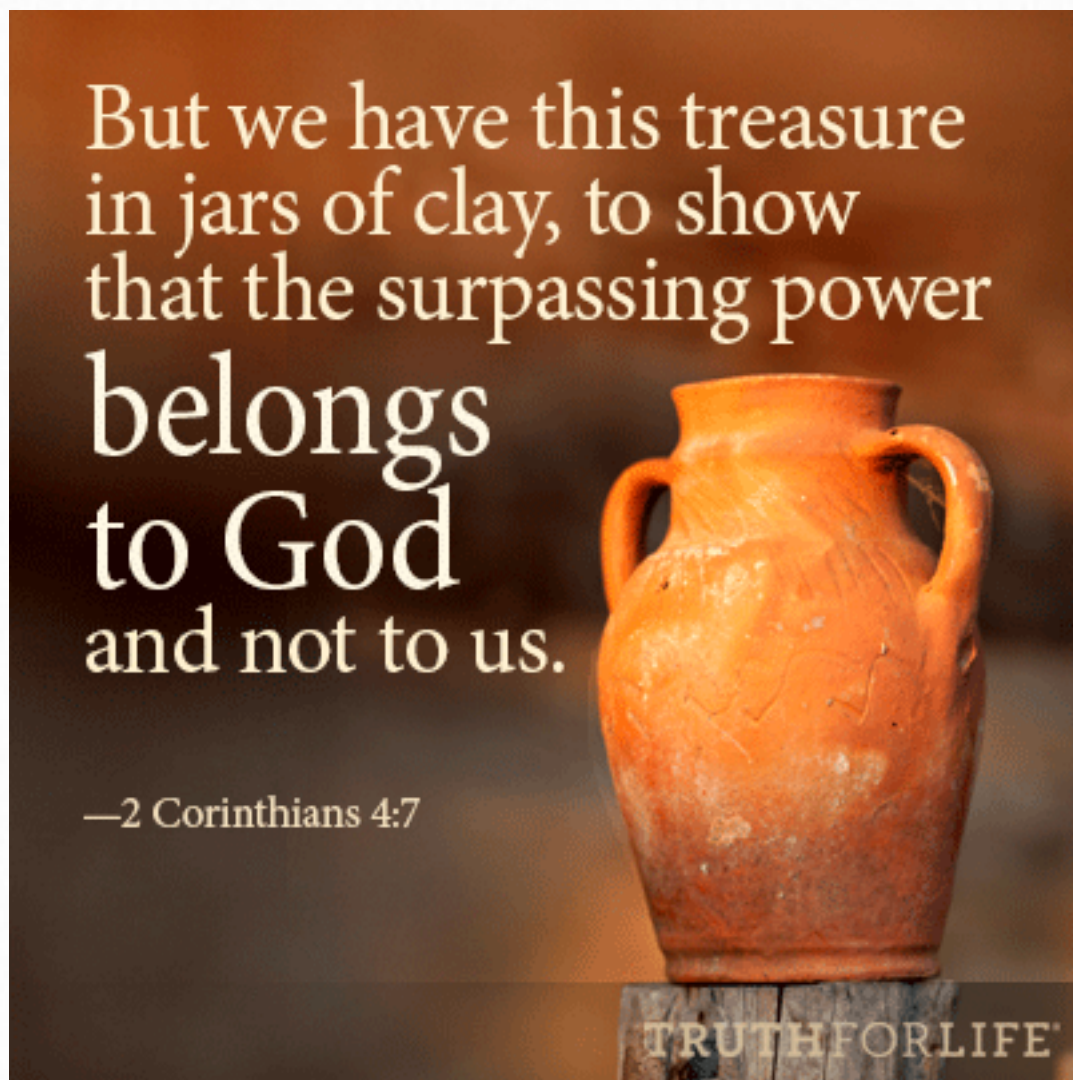
14. Deo autem gratia, qui semper triumphare nos facit in Christo; et odorem cognitionis eius manifestat per nos in omni loco.

.....

Wesley’s Notes on the Bible

14. To triumph, implies not only victory, but an open manifestation of it. And as in triumphal processions, especially in the east, incense and perfumes were burned near the conqueror, the apostle beautifully alludes to this circumstance in the following verse: as likewise to the different effects which strong perfumes have upon different persons; some of whom they revive, while they throw others into the most violent disorders.

2nd Corinthians 4:7



2 Corinthians 4:7 (New International Version)

7 But we have this **treasure** in **jars of clay** to show that this **all-surpassing power** is from God and not from us.

Questions

- What is the Treasure?
- What does he mean by Jars of Clay?
- What does the all-surpassing power look like?

By Jason Hoodwith

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians follows his prior letters and ministry there, and he continues to defend his ministry against criticism and misunderstanding. But Paul doesn't

just defend his ministry; he also wants them to mimic his pattern of life, something he "teaches in all the churches" (1 Corinthians 4:8-17). The Corinthians—and all readers—must respond to the benefits of the cross of Jesus by taking up their crosses and laying down their lives, imitating Paul as he imitated Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:6-17 (Key Passage) — Life and Ministry according to the Cross: Paul once more notes that it is not he, but the Lord who is the source of the power in his life and ministry. Yet this is proven in unexpected ways. Paul does not hold out victory and "the good life" and power and success and influence as proof of his ministry's authenticity. Rather, he holds up the suffering, Ministry and Sacrifice he leads as he follows the Savior who suffered and died. Success in a ministry is often measured by numbers: members, attendance, baptisms, seats and money. But Paul offers a wholly different way of looking at ministry. His model is to carry around and live out the death of Jesus for the sake of others, pouring himself out on their behalf. And that is what

he calls the Corinthians to do, especially with their money (2 Corinthians 8:9). Paul is doing nothing more than showing the Corinthians one specific way in which they are to die to themselves, that they might live, as Jesus requires of all his disciples (Mark 8:31-37). See also the following notes on 2 Corinthians 4:18-5:8 and 5:9-17 as well as 11:22-12:10 and 1 Corinthians 4:7-18 and 10:33-11:1. See 1 and 2 Corinthians theme essay Ministry and Sacrifice

Stewardship Bible Study Notes (2 Corinthians)

Sermon

<http://www.trinitycrc.org/sermons/2co04v07.html>

John 8



John 8

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on ques-

tioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

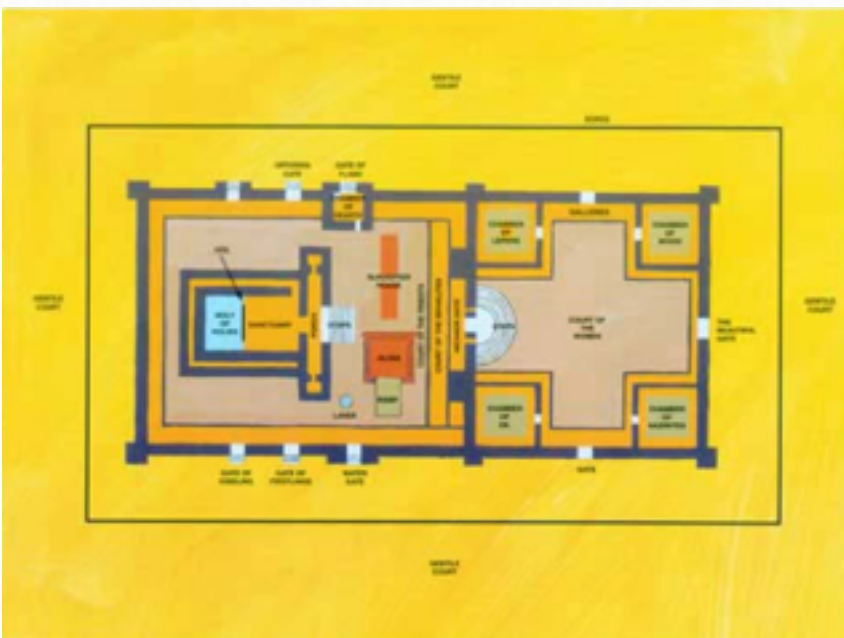
Written by: John around AD 85-90. John was the "one Jesus loved". Probably around 13 at the time of Jesus.

Characters: Jesus, Pharisees, Woman caught in Adultery, People Jesus wanted to teach.

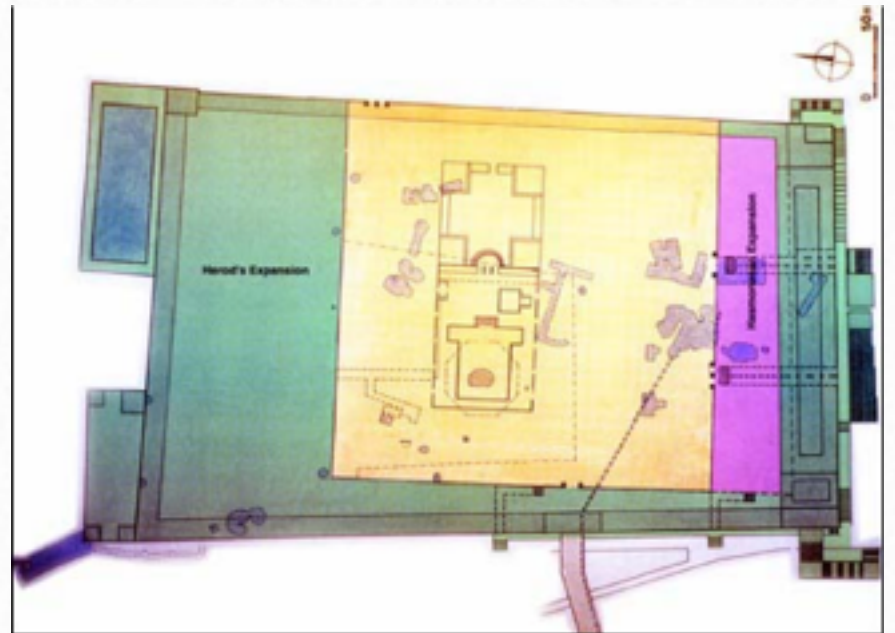
Situation: Leaders wanted to trap Jesus and find a reason to arrest him.

Occasion: Jesus teaching in the Temple courts.

- What was Jesus writing?
- How were they going to trap him?
- Why was it significant that the older ones left first?
- Why did Jesus say leave your life of sin?
- What does this say to you about forgiveness?
- How do you think the woman felt during this?



Temple Courts Diagram



Temple on the Mount Diagram

ABOUT

Temple Courts

In Jesus' day, the Temple was an elaborate structure visited by thousands of pilgrims each year. Herod the Great had expanded the temple area of Mount Moriah, adding retaining walls and filling them with dirt to create an area more than 1,200 feet long and 800 feet wide.

Herod also built a beautiful colonnade along all four sides of the Temple Mount. On the southern end, he added a porch above the colonnade, creating an area known as the Royal Stoa.

The Temple building itself stood near the center of the Temple Mount and was surrounded by a series of courts. Farthest from the temple doors was the Gentile Court, the area where non-Jewish believers worshiped. This court was separated from the interior courts by a low wall called the Soreq; no Gentiles were allowed inside the Soreq wall.

Beyond the Soreq was a gate leading to the Women's Court, a place where people gathered for worship. In each corner of the Women's Court were smaller courts, including one for lepers and Nazarites. The other corner courts were used to store wood and oils for Temple sacrifices.

At the western end of the Women's Court was another doorway leading to the Israelite Court, an area only males could

enter. Beyond this court was the Priests' Court, where sacrifices were made on the large altar.

At the innermost part of the temple courts stood the Temple building. Inside was the Holy Place, where the table of showbread and the altar of incense were kept. A large curtain separated this room from the Holy of Holies, the innermost Temple chamber that represented God's presence among his people.

The craftsmanship of Herod's temple was amazing. Though stones were quarried and chiseled into shape miles away from the Temple Mount, the joints fit so tightly that even today; a credit card cannot be slipped between them.

Herod's temple stones were not only carefully shaped, they were also huge. Stones were up to 10.5 feet high, between 11 and 14 feet thick and 45 feet long. And these massive stones, weighing up to 570 tons, can be found up to 60 feet above the ground.

Modern engineers marvel at the craftsmanship of Herod's Temple. Its huge gates and impressive stones must have required advanced technical skills to design and build. The size and scope of the Temple Mount stood as a testimony to Herod's wealth and power.

Jesus' disciples admired the Temple construction too. As they looked at the stones, they said, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" But Jesus foresaw the day when all of Herod's handiwork would be destroyed. He foresaw the destruction of the Temple as he replied, "Not one stone here will be left on another" Mark 13:1-2

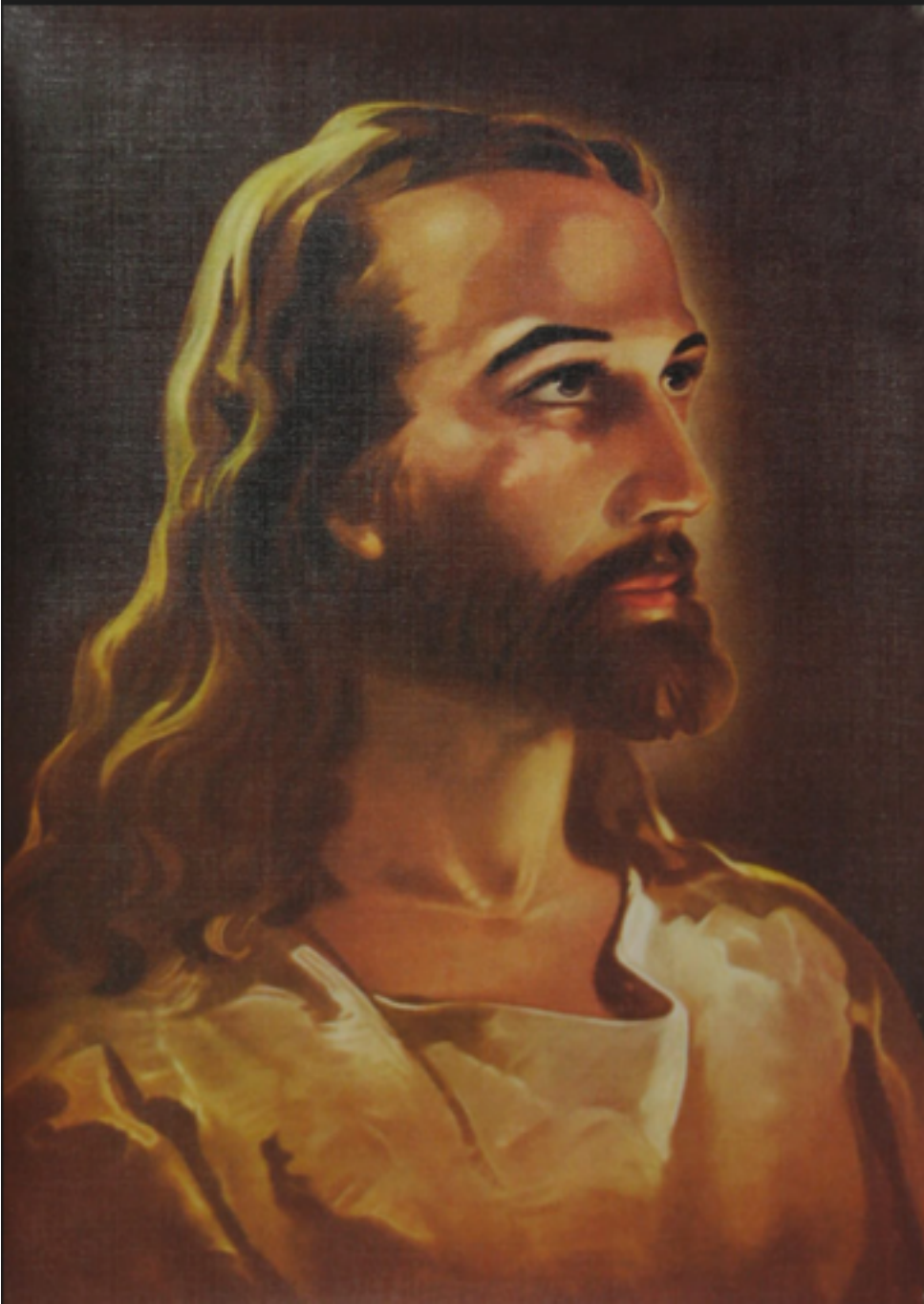
Just like the stones of the Temple, each believer has a unique place in God's Kingdom today. God has carefully shaped each of us, fitting us together in a way that strengthens our communities. Unlike the Temple stones built for Herod's glory, the spiritual house of God's children will last forever.

4

Alive Again

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

Philippians 2:13



12 Verses that lead to a changed life



1. **Romans 7:18** - " For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

2. **Philippians 2:13** - "for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

3. **Romans 12:1** - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

4. **Lamentations 3:40** - "Let us examine our ways and test them and let us return to the Lord."

5. **James 5:16** - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that

you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

6. **James 4:10** - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

7. **1 John 1:9** - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

8. **Luke 6:31** - "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

9. **Matthew 5:23-24** - "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."

10. **1 Corinthians 10:12** - "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

11. **Colossians 3:16** - "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

12. **Galatians 6:1** - "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."