

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Treasure of the Church” 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Setting: 2 Corinthians is one of the most personal and earnest letters from Paul. His apostleship is questioned again because of his sufferings. His character and courage are questioned, and he addresses these doubts. He knows that it is important for them to receive his apostleship in order to receive his apostolic message. He also teaches that God doesn’t work through strength or a prosperous life, but He works through brokenness and weakness.

Summary: Paul calls us mere jars of clay. Jars of clay back then were cheap and disposable. There was no worth in them themselves. It was what they contained that gave them their worth and purpose. Our hearts are fallen, our lives are finite, and our bodies are weak. But our treasure is in the gospel, the person and work of Jesus, who was the ultimate jar of clay that made us His treasure.

Central Truth: “Our worth is not in our gifts and glory but in the treasure of the gospel.”

Sermon Points:

1. Who We Are
2. What We Go Through
3. What Our Treasure Is

Opening Question

1. What are some things we treasure in our lives? In our churches?

(Answers may vary.)

The Corinthian church treasured strength and the prosperous life. It seemed like Paul was living the opposite, so they doubted his apostleship and message. But

Community Group Discussion Questions

Paul teaches in our passage what the Christian life looks like and what our treasure should be.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

2. How does Paul describe us? Is that an accurate picture of who we are? Why or why not?

(Paul describes us as jars of clay. Jars of clay back then were cheap and disposable. They weren't of any value or worth. The only purpose they had was to store things. And not only that, we see through verses 8-10 that we are broken jars of clay. We are broken by our own sin, others' sins, the sicknesses of this world, and our circumstances.

Answers may vary.)

3. What is the treasure that Paul speaks about? What is our treasure?

(The treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection for our salvation. This is the treasure that allows us to endure the storms that come. This is the hope for our broken lives in the present. This is what gives us our worth. The jars of clay are only valuable because of what's inside of them.

Answers may vary. We all treasure something or someone, and that defines how we live our lives. We can treasure the gospel, because it shows that God first treasured us.)

4. How does the gospel assure us of our identity and worth?

(The gospel assures us of our identity, because it shows us that we are nothing in ourselves. We are finite and fallen. We cannot save ourselves or place value in ourselves. Only Christ can do that. But at the same time, it shows us our worth, because it shows us that we are valuable to God. We can treasure Christ, because He first treasured us. He treasured us so much that He laid down His life to receive us. And this treasure is our hope and strength as we live on this earth.)

Final Thoughts: *The main point of our passage is questioning who we are and what our treasure is. Paul humbles us by calling us mere jars of clay. But He gives us a hope and a worth that are more secure than anything this world can offer: the gospel of Jesus. May we be humbled by this passage, and may the treasure of the gospel be our*

Community Group Discussion Questions

ultimate treasure and joy. And may the good news of Christ help us to endure all things for His glory.