

HOW TO HANDLE THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

In 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 and 4:8-10, Paul listed the crises he faced that caused him to want to _____
The key to overcoming discouragement and the urge to quit in the middle of the coronavirus crisis is _____

I. FOCUS ON THE _____ RATHER THAN THE OUTER 4:16

A. The Outer

- 1) "The outward man is decaying": the moment we are born we begin the process of _____
- 2) Because of the effects of the Curse, if we focus on the outer, we are inviting _____

B. The Inner

Inner renewal is promised only to _____ ; it is Christ's constant work of _____ in the soul

- 1) This inner renewal is a _____ : *claim it* with the same faith with which you claimed salvation
- 2) This inner renewal is a _____ : *do it* by practicing the means of grace—the Word & prayer

II. FOCUS ON THE _____ RATHER THAN THE TEMPORARY 4:17



- A. Paul was not naïve; what he suffered was not light in itself: his entire life was one slow _____
- B. Whether our difficulties are light and bearable depends on what we put on the other side of the _____
- C. This focus—this way of thinking—overcomes disappointment only if we truly give weight to the _____
- D. This crisis is an opportunity to lay up _____ in heaven, but only if we depend on God's grace

III. FOCUS ON THE _____ RATHER THAN THE SEEN 4:18

A wonderful paradox: we are to gaze at that which we cannot _____

A. The Seen

- 1) "The things which are seen" are the things that the _____ sees—speaks of the world's evaluation
- 2) Paul could have been one of the most respected rabbis in history, but instead he died a _____

B. The Unseen

- 1) "Look at" = *skopeo* in v.18 from which we get our English _____ : "I take aim at the unseen"
- 2) The unseen was Paul's goal; discouragement comes from aiming at things we can _____
- 3) When we look through binoculars or a scope, we cannot _____ anything but what we are focused on
- 4) The reality of the matter is that what is unseen is actually more _____ ; it shall endure forever
- 5) Which tips the scales? Gold and silver or wood, hay and stubble which shall be _____ ?

CONC: Our focus is easily distracted by so much in the world, particularly in the midst of this crisis, so we must intentionally maintain our _____ on the inner, the eternal and the unseen