

Dear Friend,

This month I would like to continue teaching on these two verses:

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Without doubt our bodies are the earthen vessels. The treasure is “Christ in us.” Our bodies are fragile, subject to disease and death. We obviously have no supernatural power inherent in our physical bodies. But God has chosen to place within these fragile bodies the power of the risen Christ, which is manifested by the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are literally the temple of God.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

The Bible gives a beautiful illustration of God’s power in weak vessels in the story told in Mark 4:35 – Mark 5:20. There is no space here in this letter to print the whole story so please get your Bible and read it so you have it fresh in your mind. In summary, Jesus told His disciples, “Let us cross over to the other side.” They all got in the boat, and they began sailing to the other side of the sea of Galilee.

Picture this image. The treasure is Jesus. They have this treasure in a “wooden vessel” ... the boat. The Holy Spirit is giving us a preview of us eventually having Christ in our body ... our “earthen vessel,” but this is the best illustration possible before the new birth becomes available.

They have this treasure in a “wooden” vessel. Like our bodies, this wooden vessel is fragile, can be broken, and even sunk to the bottom of the sea. A great storm comes against them. This illustrates what Jesus told them earlier in the day that Satan comes immediately to steal the Word. The “cares of this world” is one of the tactics Jesus said Satan would use to steal the Word.

The disciples became very afraid. They forgot all about the assignment to go to the other side. Their focus had been diverted to saving their own lives now. They did not say to Jesus, “We are having trouble getting to the other side.” No, they said, “Do you not care that we perish?”

Self-preservation had become their focus. In real life, what normally happens at a time like that? People tend to quit and give up. They begin to reason, “Surely I must not have heard God correctly.”

If the disciples had chosen to give up and return back the way they came in order to preserve their lives, then the “treasure” would not have been delivered to the other side of the sea. And that would have meant ... the madman of Gadara would not have been delivered.

In that instance, just like Jesus had taught earlier in the day, the Word would have become unfruitful. What Word? “Let us cross over to the other side.” What fruit? The fruit God wanted was for the madman of Gadara to be delivered and set in his right mind.

Mar 4:18-19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, (19) And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

When Christians are under attack, they usually think they are the targets of the enemy. Not really. Then they think, it must be the Word we have received ... that is what is being attacked. Only partially true. We are not the target. The Word is not the target. The target is ... THE FRUIT.

Satan has no power over the Word of God ... at all. His assaults against Christians are always to stop the Word from producing the intended fruit in the earth. He continually attacks us to try and discourage us in order that we will eventually quit and give up. Only then does the Word become ... unfruitful.

In our generation, we have received the Word from the Lord to birth a Revival in the earth, the likes of which have not been seen since the book of Acts. Continual assaults against us have been launched by the enemy. We must remember, we are not the target of the assault. Ultimately, the Word is not the target of the assault. The FRUIT OF REVIVAL is the target of the assault. But if we refuse to be discouraged, and if we refuse to quit and give up, the WORD we have received will eventually produce the FRUIT OF REVIVAL.

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY