

Life from Death

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 4:1-11.

B. The resource that Paul depended upon for success was entirely God. (Philippians 3)

II. In the life of faith, you never know what will come out of the simplest instances.

III. Underhanded ways are to be renounced.

A. There are men who deliberately tamper with the Word of God to say what they want it to say.

B. The Scriptures gives the truth about the way things really are.

C. Approach every situation with the truth.

D. The secret that is hidden in the gospel is God-likeness.

IV. The gospel is veiled to those perishing.

A. Blindness occurs before a person hears the gospel in order to prevent a person from receiving the gospel when he does hear it.

B. This is blindness to reality—people are being prepared to turn down the gospel. Many people do not want to face life.

C. We are dealing with a world already sunk in self-deceit.

D. We do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ

1. This is the only message that will break through the blindness.

2. We serve a God who calls light out of darkness.

V. God has given us weak earthen vessels—that is, our bodies.

A. This is so that we might depend on God's power and not our own.

B. We have resurrection power in these bodies.

1. This is quiet, undemonstrative, and it does not need any help.

2. It is the secret to human inadequacy and rest.

3. Resurrection power is provided for the times that we are afflicted, perplexed and crushed.

4. We are not excused from perplexities. (Philippians 2:13)
5. It is not our problem to work out afflictions—we must rest upon God.

C. How to release the power.

1. Always carrying about the death of Jesus for the present manifestation of the life of Jesus.
2. We are to do something: we are to maintain an attitude consistent with the cross.
 - a. Jesus became what we are and was put to death.
 - b. We must accept this judgment in our natural life.
 - c. We must die to ourselves before we can receive Jesus' life.
3. Something must be done to us: the life of Jesus must be released in us.
 - a. The Father is always putting us in places where we are out of our ability.
 - b. God is trying to teach us that we cannot handle life.
 - c. There is no profit in the flesh.
 - d. God turns our life into a simple life of faith.

Application questions:

1. Explain why unbelievers are blinded toward the gospel. What does this mean?

2. How have you experienced weakness in your own body in a way that caused you to reach out to God?

3. Why is it essential not only to take off the wrong attitudes but also to put on Jesus' life? Explain
