



Welcome to Network Church

歡迎來到網絡教會

Photo Taken: Cloe Jaiswal

Treasures in Jars of Clay

在瓦器裡的寶貝

6th Nov 2022

Network Church

2 Corinthians 哥林多後書 4:7-12 (NIV 新國際版)

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

2 Corinthians 哥林多後書 4:7-12 (Passion Translation 聖經譯本)

⁷We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that this immeasurable power will be seen as God's, not ours. ⁸Though we experience every kind of pressure, we're not crushed. At times we don't know what to do, but quitting is not an option. ⁹We are persecuted by others, but God has not forsaken us. We may be knocked down, but not out. ¹⁰We continually share in the death of Jesus in our own bodies, so that the resurrection life of Jesus will be revealed through our humanity. ¹¹We consider living to mean that we are constantly being handed over to death for Jesus' sake so that the life of Jesus will be revealed through our humanity. ¹²So, then, death is at work in us but it releases life in you.

Context 內容

- Certain false teachers had come to the church and poisoned the minds of the believers with lies against Paul.

某些假教師來到教會，用反對保羅的謊言毒化信徒的思想。

- His opponents were undermining his work, claiming that his suffering proved he was not a true apostle (11:24-29).

他的反對者正在破壞他的工作，聲稱他的苦難證明他不是真正的使徒（11:24-29）。

- Paul wrote this book to defend his ministry and his apostleship.

保羅寫這本書是為了捍衛他的事工和使徒身份。

Metaphor: Jars of Clay 比喻：瓦器

- We are common clay jars / clay pots (created from dust / clay / earth).
我們是常見的瓦器/陶罐（由灰塵/粘土/泥土製成）。
- God created man from the dust and to dust we will return (Gen 3:19).
上帝用塵土造人，我們將歸於塵土（創 3:19）。

Treasure Within 寶貝在裡面

- The value / worth / beauty of a clay pot lies in what it carries within.

瓦器的價值 / 意義 / 美麗在於它所攜帶的東西。

- We have this “treasure” within – Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

我們裡面有這個“寶貝”——就是基督在你們心裡成了有榮耀的盼望。
（歌羅西書 1:27）。

- The outward vessel is not as important as the glorious treasure within!

外面的器皿不如裡面的寶物重要！

Outward Impressiveness versus Weakness

外在印象與弱點

- In society, we place a lot of emphasis on outward appearances and making a good impression. It's human to want to show our strengths and hide our weaknesses.

在社會上，我們非常注重外表和給人留下好印象。想要展示我們的優勢並隱藏我們的弱點是人類的行為。

- But to God, brokenness is beautiful.

但對上帝來說，破碎是美麗的。

- Main theme in 2 Corinthians is “God’s Power in Man’s Weakness”.

哥林多後書的主題是“上帝在人的軟弱中的能力”。

2 Corinthians 哥林多後書 12:9-10 (TPT)

⁹“My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness.” So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I’m weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me. ¹⁰So I’m not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I’m surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution because of my love for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God’s power.

Is Suffering ‘Unspiritual’? 受苦是“不屬靈的”嗎？

- Think of this mentality that ‘suffering is unspiritual’ – are we trapped in this mindset?

想想這種“苦難是不屬靈的”的心態—我們是否陷入了這種心態？

- Our relationship with God is not transactional, but covenantal. In the face of suffering, God is no less good to us.

我們與上帝的關係不是交易的，而是盟約的。面對苦難，上帝對我們同等的好。

- Paul showed that through his afflictions, he was sharing in the sufferings of Christ (Philippians 3:10).

保羅表明，通過他的苦難，他與基督一同受苦（腓立比書 3:10）。

- Do we have a theology of suffering as evangelical Christians?

作為福音派基督徒，我們有苦難的神學嗎？

Quote from Thomas a Kempis 的名言

‘The Lord has many
lovers of His crown
but few lovers of
his cross’

愛主冠冕的
人很多，但
愛祂十字架
的人卻很少。
。

Finding Our Sufficiency in Christ

在基督裡找到我們的滿足

- It would seem that for Paul, affliction & suffering is normal, and his constant dependency and sufficiency was in Christ.

對保羅來說，苦難和痛苦似乎是正常的，他在基督裡有不間斷的依賴和滿足。

- Jesus is all sufficient for Paul – do we find our sufficiency in Christ?

耶穌對保羅來說是完全的滿足——我們在基督裡找到我們的滿足了嗎？

- In times of setbacks and suffering, is it enough to know that God loves us and His presence is with us?

在挫折和痛苦的時候，單單知道上帝愛我們和祂的同在是否就足夠？

Quote

“Lament is the path that takes us to the place where we discover that there is no complete answer to pain and suffering, only Presence. The language of lament gives a meaningful form to our grief by providing a vocabulary for our suffering and then offering it to God as worship. Our questions and complaints will never find individual answers (even as Job’s questions were never fully answered). The only Answer is the dangerous, disturbing, comforting Presence, which is the true answer to all our questions and hopes.”

(by Michael Card)

The Paradox of the Christian Life 基督徒生活的悖論

We are comforted, yet afflicted; we are secure, yet we suffer; we are both strong and weak; we experience joy and sorrow; we die yet live. God “comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering” (1:4). When we are at our weakest, we “sense more deeply the might power of Christ living in me” (12:9). And though “we continually share in the death of Jesus,” his “resurrection life.....will be revealed through our humanity” (4:10).

我們得到安慰，卻又受苦；我們很安全，但我們受苦；我們既強又弱；我們經歷快樂和悲傷；我們死了還活著。上帝“與我們同在，在各樣的苦難中安慰我們”（1:4）。當我們最軟弱的時候，我們“更深切地感受到基督住在我裡面的大能”（12:9）。儘管“我們不斷地分享耶穌的死”，但祂“復活的生命.....將通過我們的人性顯露出來”（4:10）。

2 Corinthians 4:7

*But we have this treasure in jars of
clay to show that this all surpassing
power is from God*



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Jars of Clay

the journey retreat
20 - 24 March 2023



All Nations Christian College
Easneye, Ware, Herts SG12 8LX



5 days / 4 nights



£345 full board



Optional
Spiritual direction £35

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