

The Order of Worship

Opening Song	Amazing Grace
A Prayer of Praise	Highlight Attribute <i>Grace</i>
Scripture Reading	II Corinthians 4:7-15
Congregational Song	Christ Our Hope in Life and Death
A Prayer for the Nations*	#12 Sudan
Affirmation of Faith	
A Prayer for the Lost	
Congregational Song	My Savior's Love
Sermon:	II Corinthians 4:7-15

Although Sudan has taken significant steps towards religious freedom in the past year, Christians from a Muslim background still face extreme persecution from their families and communities. These believers no longer face the death penalty for leaving Islam, but may be attacked, ostracized or otherwise discriminated against if their faith is discovered. Church buildings are often attacked or even demolished. Many still keep their faith secret, for the safety of them and their family. Some converts even choose not to raise their children as Christians, wary of retribution from community leaders. This fear of exposure even means some Christians from a Muslim background have Islamic funerals in Muslim cemeteries.

Since President Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April 2019, there has been uncertainty about the leadership of Sudan and how it would impact Christians. Thankfully, and in an amazing answer to prayer, there do seem to be significant steps towards freedom of religion. Islamic law will end after 30 years, and Christians from a Muslim background no longer face the death penalty. While persecution continues in Sudan, and attitudes are not eradicated overnight, this is very promising and the reason that Sudan has fallen six places on the World Watch List this year.

Prayer Requests

Mary Ann Cooper	Rita Stewart
Danette Roberson	Frank Burton

Announcements

- Homecoming Needs: Dressing, Turkey, Sides
- Volunteers to Oversee the Event

Nov	14 th	Farmer's Market
Nov	21 st	Homecoming
Dec	7 th	Believers @ the Johnson's Noon
Dec	18 th	Assemble Fruit Baskets
Dec	19 th	Deliver Fruit Baskets
Dec	19 th	Christmas Cookie Walk
Jan	4 th	Believer's Pot Luck @ Emory
Jan	16 th	Chili Lunch (Fundraiser)
Feb	1 st	Believers
Feb	13 th	Valentine Cookie Cake

Explorer's Bible Study

II Corinthians 4:7-15

The Apostle Paul Wouldn't Skip Thanksgiving

There's no debate that the times are difficult. If anyone had a "right" to complain, the Apostle Paul most certainly did. Between the beatings, imprisonments, stonings and such, Paul's life should have been full of discouragement, despair and outright hopelessness. However, if you look at two bookmarks to our verses today, Paul wrote "we do not lose heart" in verses 1 and 16. What are triggers for depression and discouragement for most, were not for Paul. Why?

I. Paul Remembered He Was a _____.

Paul knew that the "treasure" (treasure) was inside him. The message was what was important. Truthfully, our _____ presents no _____ to God. Most importantly, _____ is make perfect in our _____. The clay pot may have denoted small pottery lamps or larger urns used for various purposes. Either way, they were _____. In using this term he reminds us that our bodies and circumstances are temporary. Regardless of how difficulty a trial you endure, it's temporary. I Corinthians 10:13.

We are afflicted but not _____. We are perplexed but not driven to _____. We are persecuted but not _____. We are cast down but not _____. William Tyndale was a man whose only crime was to

obey God's call to _____ the Scriptures into _____. He was martyred for Jesus, October 6th, 1536.

II. Paul Remembered To Give _____.

Paul also remembered that genuine faith cannot remain _____. Paul's faith gave him great confidence. He walked by _____ not by _____ and that helped him defeat depression, discouragement and despair. When we're focused on what other people _____ or what other people _____ to us or how they can _____, that's the _____ of man. We effectively are worshipping them rather than God. Paul refused to be lured into that trap by the evil one. He gave testimony to the One Who called him.

III. Paul Remembered To _____.

Paul would not have skipped Thanksgiving for Christmas because he was grateful for the opportunity to bear the marks of the Lord Jesus in his body through suffering. He would give thanks for his deliverance from sin, for his salvation, for the opportunity to suffer and even to die for Jesus. Paul right understood that he needed to live his life with an attitude of _____ to God and Soli Deo Gloria (Glory Only to God). Even though it might appear Paul was coming apart at his seams, he still chose Soli Deo Gloria.

Is this your life's direction?