

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

A Couple of Notes on 2 Corinthians:

- Written in 55 (1 Corinthians written in spring of 55 2nd in fall of 55) and is part of Paul's work to build and strengthen this congregation. He visits three times between 50 and 56. First to establish the church, the second to deal with sexual misconduct in the church, and the third to defend himself against the false teachers that had come to Corinth.
- Addresses divisions in the congregation, false apostles, human frailty, poverty to sin, generosity, suffering, and self-examination
- It is while he is in Corinth that he writes his letter to the Romans

Read 2 Corinthians 5:13-15

1. Paul is beginning by anchoring his argument in the historic Christian faith. How does knowing that our faith is historic influence us or challenge us to live out our faith today?
2. We believe and so we speak... This is the pattern of Christian confession. In what ways does this appear in our worship and our life?
3. Paul returns to a common theme- look forward to the eschaton. Why would this be a form of comfort?
4. Why does Paul do what he does/for whom does he do his work? What does he pray is the outcome of his speaking and the speaking of the Corinthians?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

5. Paul now reminds us that life in this world will not be easy and yet, we should not lose heart. To give comfort he chooses to contrast:
 - a. Outer self v. inner self- How does persecution damage one and help the other?
 - b. Affliction v. Glory- The points of comparison here is degree and time
 - c. Seen v. Unseen- An extension of the first two and itself a comparison
6. At the end of the section, Paul returns to hope.