

Viewing Our Afflictions in the **Light of Eternity**

2 Corinthians 4:8-18



“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). Our present afflictions often seem to be a burden far too heavy to bear. Our present trial can press down very massively upon us. Yet, from eternity’s viewpoint, our burdensome affliction is very light compared to the enormous weight of future blessings that will be ours forever. Likewise, the trials we go through often seem endless. We cry out, “Lord, **how long** must I endure this trial, this difficulty?” It seems like it will never end. However, from eternity’s point of view the affliction lasts only “for a moment,” which is insignificant when compared to our future glory, which is eternal.

When going through difficult fiery trials, it is very helpful to remember that the affliction is “light” and temporary when seen from God’s point of view. We need to “reckon” or count these Bible facts as true.

Paul said, “For **I reckon** that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). There is no comparison! The future glory totally outweighs the present sufferings and makes them insignificant by comparison.

One might say it this way: On one side of the scale you have a very insignificant particle of dust which represents the sufferings of this present time. On the other side of the scale you have a huge piece of gold weighing a million tons which represents the future glory.

These statements by Paul are all the more remarkable when we consider the extent of his personal sufferings (2 Cor. 11:23-28; Acts 9:16). Our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared to what Paul went through! Yet none of these sufferings compare with our gargantuan future glory!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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