



## CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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PASTOR MARTIN CHILDS, JR.

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-10

TITLE: I HAVE HOPE BECAUSE THEY HAD HOPE

### INTRODUCTION

- A. We are fragile clay pots that are called to be productive in a world that is designed, and sometimes determined, to be crack us and brake us. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Whereas they are not excuses, and are sometimes given too much power and authority, the ism's and the phobias are real and actively work to crack and break certain people. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Our ancestors, having faced all of the things that Paul identified and more, lived in the hope that although their world was designed and determined to crack and break them because of who they were on the outside, they had something on the inside – the *light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in Christ* – that would empower them and their ancestors to pursue and achieve great success. \_\_\_\_\_

### WE HAVE THIS TREASURE

- A. What is the treasure? The treasure is *the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in Christ* \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The treasure is in our human bodies / earthen vessels / clay pots \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Clay pots are inexpensive, fragile and common
  2. God put his light, that was displayed in Christ, into us
  3. Why would someone place something so expensive into something so cheap?
- C. God did this to show us that the power is in God and not us... \_\_\_\_\_

### WE ARE PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, YET NOT UNDER PRESSURE

- A. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Hard-pressed = under pressure
  2. Crushed = to be in a narrow place, to compress
- B. How can the pressure be on us and we are not under pressure? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. God gets in between us and who or what is applying the pressure \_\_\_\_\_

### WE ARE WITHOUT A WAY OUT, YET A WAY OUT IS MADE

- A. We are perplexed, but not in despair \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Perplexed = no way out
  2. Despair = utterly without a way out
- B. Our ancestors, "God can make a way out of no way." \_\_\_\_\_

### WE ARE DRIVEN AWAY, YET GOD STAYS WITH US

- A. We are persecuted, but not forsaken \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Persecuted = to put to flight, to drive away
  2. Forsaken = to abandon or desert
- B. God goes before us, is with us and will not leave us or forsake us \_\_\_\_\_

### WE ARE THROWN DOWN YET WE GET BACK UP

- A. We are struck down, but not destroyed \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Struck down = to throw to the ground
  2. Destroyed = to die, to perish
- B. Like dust, we rise \_\_\_\_\_