

**Rise**  
***Rise Up Forever***  
**May 10, 2009**

**2 Corinthians 4:6-18**

<sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

**Discussion Questions**

What is your 'earthly' idea of heaven?  
What do you really think heaven is like?

Do you think we talk about heaven too much or not enough?  
Why?

In what way is our outer self 'wasting away'?  
In what way is our inner self 'being renewed day by day'?

What is Paul referring to as a 'slight momentary affliction'?  
Do you think this is accurate?

What is an 'eternal weight of glory'?  
How is this glory 'beyond all comparison'?

How can all this work together so 'we do not lose heart'?  
How does thinking about eternity affect how we live our days now?