

Authentic Christianity Part 5

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 4:7-11.
- B. The New Covenant belongs to God and not to us.

II. We are earthen vessels with a treasure in us.

- A. The treasure is Christ in us.
- B. This is the secret of adequacy. This makes a person a whole person—we ought to preach the gospel in these terms.
- C. It is also the secret of power—resurrection power. (Philippians 3)
- D. The result of this power: the Christian is one who is completely fearless, continually cheerful and constantly in trouble.
 - 1. It is designed for every day challenges, not just major tribulations.
 - 2. It is designed to handle perplexities. There is a power that keeps you from making a mess of things.
 - 3. It is designed to help in persecution.

III. The key of the switch from the Old Covenant to the New is the death of Jesus.

- A. Jesus came to be on the cross what we were, but there was no reason in Him for this.
- B. When He became all that we are in Adam He was put to death.
- C. Bearing the cross is recognizing that our natural resources are worthless.
- D. We depend on Jesus when there is nothing else to depend on.
 - 1. We are to repent and believe.
 - 2. This is the same thing as putting off the old man and putting on the new.
 - 3. The key to walking in the Spirit is repudiating the flesh.
 - 4. God has made provision for us as we learn how to walk.
- E. God is putting us to death. (I Corinthians 1)

Application questions:

1. What is the secret of adequacy for the believer? Explain.

2. How is the cross the key to the switch to the New Covenant?

3. How does the cross make a difference in your daily life? What can accessing this power change in your daily life?
