



## 2 Corinthians

4:5-12

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<sup>5-6</sup> Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

<sup>7-12</sup> If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best!

It's not what I've been through that defines who I am, it's how I got through it that has made me the person I am today.



# SERMON NOTES

THE CHURCH is not made up of perfect people, rather of the broken people who are beautifully mended by Christ into a masterpiece of life, love and grace.

**Broken does not mean USELESS,  
it means ready for REBIRTH**

"Trials in life are courses with very high tuition fees, so I don't cut classes and miss my lessons: on humility, on patience, on hope, on asking others for help, on listening to God, on trying again and again and again." — Bo Sanchez

**We are Stewards of the BROKENNESS**

We carry this treasure in unadorned clay pots, but...

If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness.

**We are a fellowship of the beautifully MENDED**

Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us.

- i. Stay in touch with your limitations.
- ii. Let Christ take over.
- iii. Boast about the weakness

# SACRED JOURNEY

## What was the purpose of the priesthood and the sacrificial system?

God established a priesthood out of the tribe of Levi in order to mediate the Law and forgiveness of God to the people of God. The priests served as a constant reminder of the gravity of sin, the need for redemption, and the power of declared forgiveness. The priests mediated the daily sacrifices and extended the word of forgiveness to the people.

Once a year the people of God would set apart a special day known as the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This was the holiest day of the year. No one would work on that day and everyone would fast and confess their sins before God. The high priest would enter the holy of holies and offer a special sacrifice for the sins of the people, including the sins of the priests. The blood of a bull would be sprinkled on the altar as a sign of the payment for our sins. One of the most notable features of the Day of Atonement was when the priest took two goats and brought them into the presence of God. One of the goats would be sacrificed for the sins of the people. The priest would then lay his hands on the second goat and confess the sins of Israel over the goat and then take the goat out into the wilderness and released it. It was symbolic of their sins being atoned for and carried far away from the people of God.

Sacrifices were an important part of the life of ancient Israel. There were burnt offerings, grain offerings, fellowship offerings, sins offerings and guilt offerings. The purpose of all these sacrifices was to underscore the need for atonement. God's holiness demands that sin be paid for. God's mercy and grace provided a way for sin to be atoned. God's holiness and mercy meet in the sacrificial system mediated by priests. However, it should be noted that the root meaning of the word "atonement" is to "cover up" sins. It was like temporarily sweeping them under the rug. The blood of bulls and goats could not really take sins away from the human heart. It was a temporary arrangement that had to be repeated year after year.

When Jesus Christ came, he offered a final and complete sacrifice of himself. He was the only true pure sacrifice. He was God's true High Priest, not just a temporary agent, and he was truly without sin. His sacrifice was once for all and final, and did not need to be repeated. He did not enter into a humanly constructed "holy of holies" but into the very presence of God in heaven. So, looking back we see that the entire priesthood and sacrificial system were but a shadow anticipating what was to come in a final and complete way in and through Jesus Christ. Priests and sacrifices were used to help us understand what would later take place through the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Life is filled with unanswered questions, but it is the courage to seek those answers that continues to give meaning to life. You can spend your life wallowing in despair, wondering why you were the one who was led towards the road strewn with pain, or you can be grateful that you are strong enough to survive it." — J.D. Stroube, *Caged by Damnation*

## **2 Corinthians 11:30**

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

## **2 Corinthians 12:9**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.