

EXEGESIS OF 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18
SENIOR ADULT RALLY
SOUTHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
MARCH 11, 2016
LORIN L. CRANFORD

4.16	Διὸ	78	οὐκ ἐγκακοῦμεν, ἀλλ'	εἰ καὶ ὁ ἔξω ἡμῶν ἄνθρωπος διαφθείρεται, ἀλλ'
		79	ὁ ἔσω ἡμῶν ἀνακαινοῦται ἡμέρα καὶ ἡμέρα.	
4.17	γὰρ	80	τὸ παραυτίκα ἐλαφρὸν . . . αἰώνιον βάρος δόξης κατεργάζεται ἡμῖν, τῆς θλίψεως ἡμῶν	 καθ' ὑπερβολὴν εἰς ὑπερβολὴν μὴ σκοποῦντων ἡμῶν τὰ βλεπόμενα ἀλλὰ (σκοποῦντων ἡμῶν) τὰ μὴ βλεπόμενα·
4.18		81	τὰ βλεπόμενα πρόσκαιρα, δὲ	
	γὰρ	82	τὰ μὴ βλεπόμενα αἰώνια.	

N-A28 GNT. 16 Διὸ οὐκ ἐγκακοῦμεν, ἀλλ' εἰ καὶ ὁ ἔξω ἡμῶν ἄνθρωπος διαφθείρεται, ἀλλ' ὁ ἔσω ἡμῶν ἀνακαινοῦται ἡμέρα καὶ ἡμέρα. 17 τὸ γὰρ παραυτίκα ἐλαφρὸν τῆς θλίψεως ἡμῶν καθ' ὑπερβολὴν εἰς ὑπερβολὴν αἰώνιον βάρος δόξης κατεργάζεται ἡμῖν, 18 μὴ σκοποῦντων ἡμῶν τὰ βλεπόμενα ἀλλὰ τὰ μὴ βλεπόμενα· τὰ γὰρ βλεπόμενα πρόσκαιρα, τὰ δὲ μὴ βλεπόμενα αἰώνια.

NRSV. 16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

The basic thought structure in vv. 16-18 is a twofold declaration of present condition (#s 78-79; v. 16). This is based upon two foundations (#s 80 & 81-82; vv. 17-18).

The beginning declarations in v. 16 define retaining hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. First (#78) Paul dismisses loss of courage: “So we do not lose heart.” Second (#79) he expands on this first declaration by emphasizing the continuing renewal of the inner person in spite of the wasting away of the outer person.

In the justification of these two points the, apostle first (# 80) looks at the outer circumstances. These are characterized as τὸ παραυτίκα ἐλαφρὸν τῆς θλίψεως ἡμῶν, *our light momentary affliction*. Here he is alluding to the depiction of hardships in 4:1-15. The deeper reality is the positive impact these are having on us inwardly.

The key for the positive impact comes from how we focus our attention (#s 81-82). These two reasons emphasize the inner focus as amplification of the same core reason in the twin participle phrases μὴ σκοποῦντων ἡμῶν τὰ βλεπόμενα ἀλλὰ τὰ μὴ βλεπόμενα, *because we scope out not the visible things but the invisible ones*. That means that when we place primary attention inwardly on the eternal things of God, even the hardships of our life take on a positive impact.