

The Patio Pulpit for July 14, 2021
The Good News Extravaganza
“The Daily Renewal”
2 Corinthians 4:16

Beverly and I made a short list of things we have to renew if we want to keep the services we have been receiving from the various entities involved. Some of them we must have, others are optional. For instance, Amazon Prime, Sirius Radio, our drivers licenses, Fox Nation, passports, insurance policies, AARP, and AAA. I know you could come up with your own lists of things that you need to be proactive with in renewing them. But there’s a different kind of renewal I want us to look at tonight. And the really good news about this renewal, someone else does the renewing for us and that same someone paid for it in full.

With most of the items I listed above, we get notices when the renewal date is coming up as well as info on how much it is going to cost us for the next renewal period. We do not get notices for this kind of renewal. And because it has been paid in advance, we do not have to worry about losing what we have been granted. It’s found in 2 Corinthians 4 v.16.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

So, the question of the day is this, **“what does it mean that our inner man is being renewed day by day?”** That is precisely how the Greek text reads, *our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

But first, the necessary matter of **context**. We cannot jump into the middle of this passage and expect to know what the apostle meant in v.16 or what his readers understood him to mean.

Apparently, Paul had reason to, humanly speaking, lose heart. And humanly speaking, he did. Beginning in chapter 1, Paul talks about the afflictions he has endured. The "sufferings of Christ" were abundant in his life. He said *“we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.”*

⁹ indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves (2 Cor. 1:8-9 NAU)

⁴ *For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; (2 Cor. 2:4 NAU) And that will suffice. We can see from that brief glimpse into the apostle's life why he would now say in v.16, we do not lose heart. If anyone had reason to lose heart, it was Paul. But on the other hand, and even more important, if anyone had reason to rejoice and be strong in the Lord, it was the 13th apostle.*

¹⁶ *Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

Our outer man is mortal, flesh and blood, corrupt and corruptible, and subject to disease and aches and pains and accidents. It is also the doorway for sin and temptations. Paul referred to it as “the body of this death,” and the reason he called himself a “wretched man” (Rom. 7:24). It was the reason he cried out to God in that verse. “Who will rescue me from the body of this death?” He understood and wanted his readers to understand why they were the way they were.

Notice this, **this renewing is a passive experience**. The verb tells us that. It is done by the Spirit to us, we are passive, the verb is passive, we are the recipients of this renewal, not the one's who are doing it and most certainly not the cause of it. We are being renewed in our inner man day by day by the Holy Spirit. Read this, ¹³ *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

¹⁴ *who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14 NAU)*

We are once and for all sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise whose presence guarantees our eternal salvation.

⁶³ *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (Jn. 6:63 NAU)*

And notice this, **this renewing is a present and continuous experience**. The verb tells us that. “*Is being renewed.*” That tells us that

this is a continuous and consistent experience. *our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

Regardless of what we may experience today, whether it's sin or temptation or illness and aches and pains or persecution because of our faith, our inner man is mercifully and graciously renewed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. That isn't saying that the Spirit must renew our inner man with the breath of life each day to jump start our day, it is simply saying that that is how life is lived in the natural. We live one day at a time. We live and work or whatever each day and then we go to bed. The next day we do it all over again. The eternal life we were given upon our conversion is not removed and then restarted the next day. We are given a new day every day until the day our life in these mortal, flesh and blood, corrupt and corruptible bodies ends.

And that's why we do not lose heart.

What will we face today?