

NOTHING IS WASTED

WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK FOUR

This week we heard the final message in the series called Nothing is Wasted. We have seen how God has established patterns of using our trials and tears to bring about God's purposes. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group go to www.prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

God who leads with a cloud by day and flames at night, guide us in our times of wilderness wandering. Take our hurt and pain and re-story our lives. Make beauty out of the ashes we walk through. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 4.14-18

¹⁴ we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- This has become a familiar passage for those who face great suffering. Paul has written these words as encouragement to himself and all those who may be wondering if there is hope. He is not minimizing the pain or struggle but is emphasizing the eternal glory of God. Sometimes that hope is the only way we keep going. Would you identify someone else's suffering as light at momentary? Why or why not? How do you keep your own struggles in the context of God's eternal glory which we will be raised into?
- *Pray that the grace of Jesus Christ would cause thanksgiving to overflow in your heart and life.*

TUESDAY: PSALM 56.8

*Record my misery;
list my tears on your scroll—
are they not in your record?*

- David is asking God to consider all of his tears. Since God is love and full of grace, the only reason God would collect our tears is if God planned to create something good out of them. Nothing is wasted with God. Where or when have you seen God redeeming your misery? Do you feel like God sees your pain and hears your cries?
- *Pray honestly to God about the struggles you have gone through or are facing today. Cry tears if necessary.*

WEDNESDAY: PSALM 126.5-6

⁵ *Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.*

⁶ *Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.*

- Our tears are like seeds for future joy. Have you ever experienced the strange sense of healing that tears can bring? Even when the problem or pain remains unresolved, tears can bring a peace. Why is it difficult to imagine future joy in a time of great difficulty? Have you had moments where that was true for you this year?
- *Pray for timely tears and the perspective of future songs of joy.*

THURSDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15.53-57

⁵³ *For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.* ⁵⁴ *When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

⁵⁵ *"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"*

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- When we "put on" Christ we wear immortality. Jesus was there at creation and reigns to this very day, so when we are in him, death's victory over our life is no longer true. How does this teaching from Paul inform the way you view your life today?
- *Pray for a sense of victory over death's sting--for boldness to be fully alive even in the face of earthly death.*

FRIDAY: 1 JOHN 3.2

² *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* ³ *All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

- The Bible promises that Christ will return. These verses from 1 John give us hope that as we continue on in this life of a disciple, we will one day recognize Jesus when he returns. We will see that in our becoming like him, we are stripping away everything else. Our future hope is

manifest in the resurrected Jesus. We often try to imagine what our lives and bodies will be like when Jesus returns. These verses give us the simplest answer--we will be like Jesus! Are these words challenging or comforting for you?

- *Pray that, in your daily living, you are becoming more like Jesus.*

SATURDAY: ISAIAH 53.3-5

*He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.*

*Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

⁴ *Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

- The prophet Isaiah spoke these words about the hoped-for messiah long before Jesus arrived on the scene. It was clear that Jesus would have to become familiar with our suffering and pain in order to redeem our suffering and pain. This is what it means to say that Jesus is your Savior. Have you made such a profession of faith? If you are making that profession right now, or would like to talk with a pastor text the words SAY YES to 31996.
 - *Pray for a humble prayer of gratitude for Jesus' willingness to take the punishment that brings us peace.*
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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jacob shared a story of two days, the best and the worst of days. What are some of those moments in your life that God has worked to redeem?
- What does it mean for you to hold an eternal mindset or perspective? What does it look like to walk in the eternal glory of God?