

## **The ‘Things’ Which Are Not Seen** - 2 Corinthians 5:15-18

- v. 15 - “All things are for your sake (benefit)”!
- v. 16 - Though our bodies perish yet the inward man (our soul and spirit of the Christian) is renewed day by day.”
- v. 17 - Our afflictions (trials) are “light” and “for a moment [temporary]” in contrast to the “weight of glory” which is eternal. Trials “work for us”...How?
- v. 18 - By looking at the things that are not seen. This is a paradox! How can we look at what is not seen? - “By faith” (Acts 26:18); “we understand” (Hebrews 11:3); “it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8); which we receive “by hearing the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).

### **A few of the many “things” that can only be seen by faith in God’s Word:**

- 1. The glory of the Lord** (2 Cor. 3:18). Christ suffered, died, was buried, raised from the dead, and glorified. Phil. 2:9-11: “God has highly exalted Him, etc.” Have you bowed your heart to Christ owning Him as your Lord? As we behold Him as glorified we “are changed [transformed] into His image. We become children of God (John 1:12; Romans 10:9), and “we have” many things by faith! Following are a few of our innumerable spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
- 2. “We have this ministry”** (2 Cor. 4:1). To proclaim Christ as Lord (v. 2-5).
- 3. “We have this treasure”** (2 Cor. 4:6,7). The light of truth that shined into our hearts when we were saved, we are not to keep to ourselves, but to let it shine forth to others.
- 4. “We have the same spirit of faith”** (2 Cor. 4:13). Faith lays hold of the power that comes from God which sustains us in all circumstances (v. 8-12). No one can live for Christ unless he has the assurance, “knowing” (v. 14), that God will sustain us both now and throughout eternity.
- 5. “We have a building of God”** eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1, 6-8). “We have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (1 Cor. 15:49). (See also Phil. 3:20,21).
- 6. “We have peace with God”** because of being justified by faith (Romans 5:1).
- 7. “We have access by faith** into this grace wherein we stand [before God], and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:2).
- 8. “We have now received reconciliation”** (Romans 5:11), and the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).
- 9. “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins”** (Ephesians 1:7).
- 10. “We have obtained an inheritance”** (Ephesians 1:11), “incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4).
- 11. “We have a Great High Priest”** and are urged to come boldly to Him that we may obtain grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- 12. “We have an altar [Christ]”** (Hebrews 13:10) whereby we approach God and gather unto Him to offer the sacrifice of praise, and communicate of our substance as acts of worship (v. 13-16).
- 13. “We have fellowship with one another,”** if we walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
- 14. “We have an Advocate with the Father”** if we sin (1 John 2:1).