

THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY SEEM

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

Somebody who knows how to live in this present world, with all its trouble and trials, tribulations and temptations and not lose heart, deserves to be listened to.

It can be hard to live in our world, with everything that we face, and not lose heart. It wasn't any easier in Paul's world either. He didn't live a sheltered life. He wasn't living on easy street. He wasn't wealthy or popular. His life was anything but a bed of roses.

2 Cor 11:24-27 Five different times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled many weary miles. I have faced danger from flooded rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the stormy seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be Christians but are not. I have lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food. Often I have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. NLT

Does that sound like easy street to you? Paul had lived a hard life. Life had been difficult. He had fought a lot of battles and he had the scars to prove it. As I preached last week, Paul lived on a battle field. He was at war. He was fighting the good fight of faith!

What's the secret Paul? How do you stay in the battle? How do you keep fighting the good fight of faith? How do you keep from losing heart?

2 Cor 4:16-18 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever. NLT

Paul tells us that the secret is to keep our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen!