

H O P E

I N S U F F E R I N G



The Answer to Suffering | 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

$$3x + 5 = 14$$

$$3(1) + 5 = 14$$

$$8 = 14$$

$$3(3) + 5 = 14$$

$$14 = 14$$

? + Suffering = Good

**What is the answer to
suffering?**



7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies...



2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-12

11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.



2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-12



**The answer to suffering is
the glory of God**

Answer: The Glory of God

"This Treasure" is the ministry of the Gospel

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7



Answer: The Glory of God

"This Treasure" is the ministry of the Gospel

1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart...

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God...

6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1, 3, 4, 6



Answer: The Glory of God

"In jars of clay" — ordinary and weak vessels

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7



Answer: The Glory of God

"To show" — In order that...

God's deliberate purpose

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7



Answer: The Glory of God

Contrast between what is happening to them
and how God is sustaining them

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but
not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9



Answer: The Glory of God

“Carrying around the deadness/dying of Jesus”

10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:10-11



10

Always

carrying in the body the
death of Jesus,

so that the life of Jesus

may also be manifested
in our bodies.

11

For we who live are always

being given over to death
for Jesus' sake,

so that the life of Jesus

also may be manifested in
our mortal flesh.



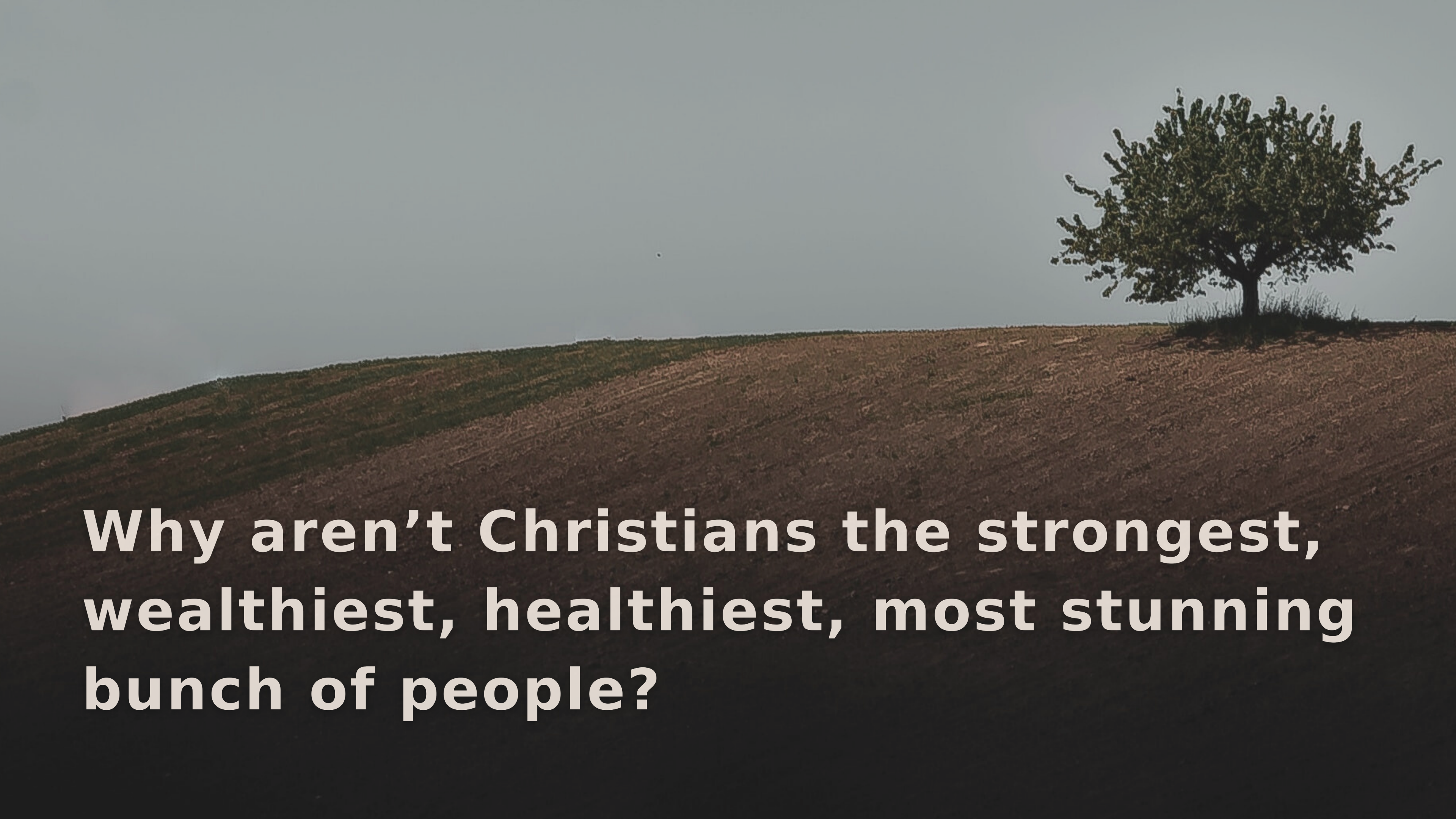
Answer: The Glory of God

“Death in us/life in you” = through their suffering the Gospel came to the Corinthians

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:12





**Why aren't Christians the strongest,
wealthiest, healthiest, most stunning
bunch of people?**

Answer: The Glory of God

The messenger matches the message

In Christ, our weakness and suffering are transformed into things that bring glory to God







**The answer to suffering is
the power of Christ's death and
resurrection**

13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.



2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-15

Answer: Christ's Death & Resurrection

This "life" to the Corinthians was accomplished through the Gospel

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,

2 CORINTHIANS 4:12-13



Answer: Christ's Death & Resurrection

"Knowing that": we will be transformed from death to life, from suffering to eternal glory

14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:14



Answer: Christ's Death & Resurrection

The Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11) will also:

- Raise us together with Jesus
- Present us together with you

14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:14



Answer: Christ's Death & Resurrection

"For it is all" — refers to Paul's suffering, his speaking, and his ministry

15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:15



Answer: Christ's Death & Resurrection

- Grace would extend to more more
- Which would increase thanksgiving
- To the glory of God

15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:15





**The answer to suffering is
God Himself**

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

Answer: God Himself

We do not lose heart

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16



Answer: God Himself

Contrast:

Temporary light affliction vs. eternal weight of glory

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18



Preparing

1. to bring about a result by doing something, *achieve, accomplish, do*
2. to cause a state or condition, *bring about, produce, create*

Not only is all your affliction momentary, not only is all your affliction light in comparison to eternity and the glory there. But all of it is totally meaningful. Every millisecond of your pain, from the fallen nature or fallen man, every millisecond of your misery in the path of obedience is producing a peculiar glory you will get because of that.

I don't care if it was cancer or criticism. I don't care if it was slander or sickness. It wasn't meaningless. It's doing something! It's not meaningless. Of course you can't see what it's doing. Don't look to what is seen. When your mom dies, when your kid dies, when you've got cancer at 40, when a car careens into the sidewalk and takes her out, don't say, "It's meaningless!" It's not.

*It's working for you an eternal weight of glory.
Therefore, therefore, do not lose heart.*

-John Piper

Excerpts from "The Glory of God in the Sight of Eternity" July 26, 2013

Answer: God Himself

At the end of our affliction what we will find is
God Himself

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now
my eye sees you;

JOB 42:5



