



“BROKENNESS” 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

We live in a very broken world filled with sin and suffering. None of us are exempt. And then you have a year like 2020 that exacerbates our brokenness. How are you going to respond? You only have two choices: The High Road or The Low Road.

(High Road) Truth → Forgiveness → Love (Life)

BROKENNESS

(Low Road) Lies → Unforgiveness → Bitterness (Death)

THE PRIORITY OF THE INNER LIFE: v7

- What matters most is not what you have (possessions), or do (performance), or what people think (Popularity); but what matters most is the person you become.
- “The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances.” – Elisabeth Elliot (Col.1:27; Ps.73:25-26)
- The neglected inner life doesn’t go away; it goes astray. (Mark 8:36)

THE COMPLEXITY OF THE INNER LIFE: vv8-9

- Pressures of life. (Emotionally) v8a
God’s Power: (1John4:4; Rom8:11)
- Perplexities of life. (Psychologically) v8b
God’s Purpose: (James 1:2-4; 2Cor.1:3-4; Gen.50:20)
- People in life. (Socially) v9
God’s Presence: (Heb.13:5-6; 2Tim.4:16-17; Ps.27:10)
- Problems of life. (Spiritually) v9b
God’s Peace: (Isa.26:3-4)

THE HEALING OF THE INNER LIFE: v10

- The heart of the Gospel is that by grace through faith in Christ everything that is true of Christ is legally and objectively true of you. (Rom.5:10; Phil.1:21; Col.3:4)
- What is true of Jesus is true of you objectively and legally, but it must also become true of you subjectively and experientially for it to make you whole. (v7 “Treasure”; Matt.5:21)
- To the degree that Christ Jesus becomes more beautiful to your imagination and more desirable to your heart than anything else in life is to the degree you will become whole in this broken world. (2Cor3:18)

Growing Notes

- 1) Read the intro. What are your thoughts and feelings about 2020? On a scale from one (worst) to ten (best) how would you rate 2020? Explain. When it comes to brokenness, what are our only two choices and what difference does it make?
- 2) Read 2Cor.4:7-10. What is the big idea of this text? What is the writer saying about the big idea?
- 3) Why is the inner life more important than our outer life (v7)? What is the key to a strong inner life (Col.1:27)? What happens if we neglect our inner life (Mark8:36)?
- 4) Review the complexities of the inner life. Why is it important to remember that problems are multidimensional (vv8-9)? What is God’s answer to the Pressures, Perplexities, People, and Problems of life?
- 5) What can heal the inner life (v10; Rom.1:16, 5:10)? How do you know if something has become your life more than Christ? Our identity in Christ is true legally and objectively. Why must it become true experientially and subjectively (2Cor3:18)? Pray.