***2 Corin 4:15-17 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.16Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.***

Have you ever considered that thanksgiving abounds to the glory of God? So many forget the value of thanksgiving, gratitude, for the blessings of life. This coming week, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day – a day to gather with family and friends and recognize how God has blessed us for yet another year. But for Christians, thanksgiving is ongoing and always. Every morning, we wake and set out on a day of thanksgiving and praise to our Lord and Savior. For us, everyday is thanksgiving day. Every day we give thanks that abounds, overflows exceedingly to glorify our God.

Verse 15 says *For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.* All things that Christ has done. All things that God has given. Paul says it a little differently in 1 Cor 3: 21-23 *Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come - all are yours. And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.* The good and the bad, the pleasant and the unpleasant, the affections and the afflictions of this life are all for our sake, to grow and mature us, in the Love of Christ towards others. Grace, or the gracious acts of prayer and loving support for one another, having been spread through and by the many, may cause thanksgiving – an attitude of deep gratefulness. The KJV says redound – what does that word mean? It means to superabound, to overflow excessively. It has the idea of seeing how blessed we are in all things through Jesus and the gratitude for that blessing overflowing from us, onto all around us, all to the glory of God.

Verse 16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.* Therefore, we do not lose heart, we faint not – what does this suggest to us? No one loses heart when everything is going great. It’s when the things of this earthly life aren’t going well that we are prone to lose heart. Paul says this – *even though our outward man is perishing* – the Hebrew has the idea of a human body completely decaying. For any of us that have lived a few years, we know that our outward body, this earthly tent, is changing. Our outward person is passing away. But our inward person, when we are in Jesus and serving Him, is being renewed day by day. We are renewed inwardly through prayer, through the reading and studying of God’s Word. When we focus on the work of the Holy Spirit within us, we are renewed, bearing the fruit of the Spirit toward all those around us. This world is not easy, but we mustn’t lose heart – we mustn’t grow faint – we mustn’t give up.

Verse 17*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.* Our light affliction – that word light here has the idea of easy to bear. Matthew 11:30 and our verse this morning are the only two places this Greek word occurs. Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:30 *Come – for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.* Now, many focus on the things of this world and don’t consider their afflictions light – disease and sickness, losing loved ones, trying to feed and clothe our family! But Paul reminds us that, when compared with the exceeding and eternal weight of glory to come, this moment of affliction, the vapor of existence that we call life is light, is easy. The fleeting time of affliction, anguish, and trouble we call life will seem like nothing when we receive the exceeding and eternal weight of glory to come.

But I want to notice something about this verse this morning. We read – *is working for us –* what is working for us? Our afflictions. Have you ever considered that the afflictions we endure are working for us and not against us? The word work has the idea of accomplishing. These momentary, light afflictions we endure are bringing eternal glory of such excess that we cannot even comprehend it. Afflictions become easier to endure when we realize that there is a purpose in them. That purpose is to accomplish an abundant eternal weight of glory.

This week, let’s examine our thanksgiving. How is it overflowing and abounding for the Glory of God? Have we lost heart and fainted at what is happening to our outward person? Do people hear more about our light, momentary afflictions than the exceeding weight of glory that we are heading toward? Thanksgiving week is a great week to sit down and ask – how thankful am I really for what God is accomplishing through my light, momentary afflictions? God already knows. He is working a great and eternal work in each of us. Let’s choose this week to be thankful for His hand as He draws us through affliction into His eternal glory.