

# Things eternal

A new year beckons us!

But the Christian's future surpasses this brief time of life on earth.

**First**, God has “called us to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus” 1 Peter 5.10 - a destiny beyond compare!

**Second**, the apostle Paul said, “our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Corinthians 4.17.

**Third**, do we realise the significance of Paul's statement? See what he endured “In stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked . . . in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst . . .”

Because of space limitations here, the above is only a brief glimpse of what Paul suffered as a servant of Christ. Chapter eleven of 2 Corinthians gives his full story.

**Fourth**, notice the absence of bitterness. He explains: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8.18.

Do we ourselves eagerly serve Christ - no matter what?

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“Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.” 1 Peter 3.14.

**Ken Packer**