

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Psalm 114, 2 Corinthians 4:7–18

As we approach the season of Advent in the year 2021, we may find ourselves in some unusual circumstances. The normal festive atmosphere may be altered with fear and uncertainty as we battle through a global pandemic. The apostle Paul is certainly aware of difficult circumstances. He tells the church at Corinth that, “we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8–9)

Over 2000 years ago the “light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” was revealed to a broken and destitute world. (2 Corinthians 4:6) This saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ had completely transformed the life of the apostle Paul and the believers in Corinth. Paul was confident that no matter how difficult the external circumstances were, the Spirit of God dwelling in him would bring him and all believers into the presence of Christ. He states, “he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.” (2 Corinthians 4:14)

Let us be encouraged this Advent season that no matter how difficult life circumstances and trials get, the Spirit of God that raised our Lord is also present with us and is actively working in us, changing and transforming us into the glorious image of our Lord Jesus. I am reminded of the fact that, “all things work together for good for those that love God.” (Romans 8:28) May we grow in faith, strength, and thanksgiving this Advent season, and may we take to heart the words of the apostle Paul when he says, “for this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” (2 Corinthians 4:17)

***Teddy Ninan**—Teddy lives in Medford and has been attending Park Street Church for eight years. He is passionate about football and theology. Teddy loves the scenic outdoors and hopes to visit most, if not all, the national parks in his lifetime.*