**SCC SMALL GROUPS**

**Dr. Scott E. Koenigsaecker**

**Doubting Our Doubts**

**2 Corinthians 4:1-17**

**Getting Started:**

1. Do you feel more like a paper cup or a crystal goblet this week?

 2. When you are discouraged what thought, song, verse, saying encourages you?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

 1. How Paul "received" his ministry (vs. 1 & 6) makes a difference in how he

 "conducts" that ministry (vs. 2-5): What is that difference?

 2. What do you learn from Paul's experience (vs. 1-6) about methods for sharing our

 faith?

 \* About the content of that faith?

 \* The lack of response to the gospel?

 3. From verses 7-11, what do you learn about the nature of ministry and the minister?

 \* How does Paul's struggle show forth God's power (v.7) and Jesus' life (v.11)?

 4. What does "death at work" and "life at work" (v.12) mean to you?

 \* Which is more at work in your life right now? Why?

 5. From verses 13-18, what truths keep Paul going in spite of hardships?

 \* Why does God allow Paul to go through them?

 6. Hardships in life can and often do create doubts in our minds about God and His

 plan for our life. Pastor Scott pointed out in his message on Sunday that trials and

 hardships in life cause us to doubt God:

 \* We hear critics of the Christian faith more loudly.

 > Now read Psalm 73:8-11

 \* We think more questioningly about our faith.

 > Now read I Timothy 1:19a

> Do you agree or disagree that "some people don't like the Bible because it is speaking too much about them and their need for radical change"?

 > Read I Timothy 1:19b. What warning is included in this passage?

 \* Our negative circumstances become "too heavy" and cause us to ask "why

 me?"

 > Read Mark 4:35-41. What do we learn about "having faith" from this

 stormy situation?

**Application of the Scriptures:**

1. How did the light of Christ first break through to you?

 2. What doubts did you have? How did you resolve them (or learn to live with them)?

 3. In what settings in life is it easiest for you to be a servant to others? Why? What

 settings do you find challenging? Why?

 4. How do verses 7-12 & 16-18, help you cope with your present difficulties and

 anxieties?