

Postmillennialism – Suffering with Christ

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 NASB

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; [8] we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. [11] For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. [12] So death works in us, but life in you.

“There are a number of areas in which postmillennialism appears to fall short. First, postmillennialism appears to minimize one of the primary experiences that will characterize the Church and all Christians throughout this present age, all the way to its end: suffering with Christ. Consider, for example, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12.”

— Sam Storms, *Kingdom Come, The Amillennial Alternative* (Mentor Imprint of Christian Focus Publications, Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire, IV20 1TW, Scotland, U.K., 2013), 380.

“[Paul] effectively distances himself from the (postmil-like) view that the (eschatological) life of (the risen and ascended) Jesus embodies a power/victory principle that progressively ameliorates and reduces the suffering of the church.... Until the resurrection of the body at his return Christ's resurrection-life finds expression in the church's sufferings (and... nowhere else - so far as the existence and calling of the church are concerned); the locus of Christ's ascension-power is the suffering church.”

— Richard Gaffin, *Theonomy and Eschatology: Reflections on Postmillennialism*, in *Theonomy: A Reformed Critique* (Zondervan, 1990), 212. Square brackets added by me.