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Outwardly we are wasting away... Doesn't that perfectly describe life? If you've spent a few years on this sin-wrecked earth... if you've been through a season or two of trial and suffering... you know what Paul is talking about. Certainly, the more years you spend, the more seasons of trial and suffering you endure, the more resigned to the inescapability and inevitability of wasting away you become, but even the five year old with the scraped knee or whose favorite toy just broke is being taught that lesson... Outwardly all of us and everything around is wasting away... all of life is a slow march toward breaking, rotting, and dying. All of life is an unescapable living-decay.

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Who laughs in the face of wasting away? What does it take to not lose heart when life gets hard? What kind of a person calls the sometimes crippling sufferings of this life light and momentary?

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