

Lesson 4

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

- **Questions**

1. What was Paul's attitude toward his ministry (4:1; see also 4:16)?
2. How did Paul refuse to act during his ministry (4:2; compare with 1:12 and 2:17)?
3. What happens to those with whom the gospel is veiled (4:3; see 2:15)?
4. What has the "god of this world" done and why (4:4)?
5. What did Paul preach and not preach (4:5)?
6. What two lights did Paul refer to in 4:6?
7. Why did God put the gospel treasure in earthen vessels (4:7)?
8. What hardships did Paul and others experience in their ministry and how did they react to these hardships (4:8-11)?
9. What was the result of Paul's hardships for the Corinthians, for himself, and for God (4:12-15)?

10. What did Paul say about the outward man and the inward man (4:16)?

11. How did Paul view the afflictions of his ministry (4:17)?

12. What did Paul focus on during his ministry (4:18)?

• **Digging Deeper**

1. What “ministry” had Paul written about in Chapter 3 that is referenced here (4:1; see 3:6-9)? How is 4:1-6 connected with 2:14-17 and 3:12-18?

2. What was Paul’s positive attitude about preaching up to this point in the epistle (4:1; see 1:3, 7, 9-10, 15; 2:14; 3:12)?

3. What is the connection between “veiled” in 4:3 and 3:14-15?

4. Who is “the god of this world” (4:4; see Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2; 6:12)?

5. What are some ways that a person can preach and promote self (4:5; 1 Thess. 2:4-6)?

6. What connection does the “glory of Christ” (4:4) and the “glory of God” (4:6) have with 3:7-11, 18?

7. What OT scripture is referenced in 4:6?

8. What is the “treasure” and who are the “earthen vessels” in 4:7?
9. How did Paul bear in his body “the dying” of Jesus and “the life” of Jesus (4:10)?
10. What is the “spirit of faith” and what OT scripture is referenced in 4:13?
11. What are the “outward man” and the “inward man” (4:16)?

• **Applications for Today**

1. We should never walk in craftiness or deceitfulness toward others (4:1-2). What is accomplished with craftiness (2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:14)? What is deceitful (Psa. 52:2)?
2. Some people allow their hearts to be veiled (covered) to the truth of the gospel (4:3)? What do some people not love and why (2 Thess. 2:10-11)? What are some things that veil the truth today?
3. The knowledge of the gospel is the light of truth that dispels the darkness of error (4:4-6). What should be our attitude towards God’s light (Psa. 43:3; Jn. 3:21)? Who needs to turn from darkness to light (Acts 26:18)?
4. Personal hardships can result in good for others (4:8-15). What was the result of Joseph’s hardships (Gen. 50:20) and of Jesus’ hardships (Heb. 2:10)?
5. True belief in something will lead us to speak about it to others (4:13). What must we always be ready to give (1 Pet. 3:15)?

6. We should not faint or give up under the pressure of persecution (4:16; see also 4:1). What did Paul encourage Christians to do (Gal. 6:9; Eph. 3:13; 2 Thess. 3:13)?

7. The inward man (the soul) can be renewed day by day if we let it (4:16). How is this done (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10)?

8. It is good for the Christian to stay focused on the glory of heaven and not on the afflictions of this life (4:17-18). What does our mind always need to be seeking and where does it always need to be set (Col. 3:1-2)?