

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6 "THE MINISTRY."

REVIEW:

- **Frustration: The world takes.....God gives.**
- **Isa. 40:28-31, Ps 23, Isa. 44:3 I will pour water on the thirsty. Isa 43:19 I will make rivers in the dessert.**
- **To be renewed: a renewal of inner strength to do and suffer for Christ. A constant renewal of strength as opposed to fainting.**

INTRO:

- **This second epistle to the Corinthians Paul writes from a desire to carry forward the work of maturity in the church.**
- **To completely remove all the objections of his apostolic authority, to put in order things there that were out of order, to again express and show what is true ministry, and to prepare them for his coming visit.**

2 Cor. 4:1-5:2

The clearest demonstration of God's love and character has been given and revealed to the human race.

We have received the clearest manifestation of God and His love in all of His creation.

VS. 1)

- **Therefore:**
- **What ministry is Paul talking about?**
 - **3:18**
 - **4:6,**
 - **5:18**
- **How did He receive it?**
 - **1:1**
 - **He received mercy.**
 - **1 Tim. 13, 16**
 - **He did not faint, loose heart. VS 16**

VS. 2)

- **Paul preached the truth.**
- **Others did not.**
 - **2:17, 11:13-15**
- **VS 5. He preached Christ.**
- **Christ as Lord.**

VS. 3)

- A hidden, veiled gospel.
- Satan exerts such influence over them so as to prevent them from embracing and apprehending the glory of the gospel. The good news..
- The whole world lies in the wicked one. And is pleased to be blind.
 - Jn. 1:10, 11; He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His ^[c]own, and His own did not receive Him.

VS. 4)

- Satan's work here is to blind men's minds and hearts.
- The problem is not with the gospel, but with satans blinding, hardening men's hearts and minds.
- The problem is with the character of those who reject it.
 - 1 Cor. 1:18; For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
 - Rom. 1:21; because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- Also they must be aware of a hardening of their hearts due to disobedience and non-application.
 - Heb. 3:13, 15; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁵ while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."
- Christ is the image of God.
 - JN. 1:18; No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten ^[a]Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
 - Jn. 14:9; Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
 - Heb. 1:3; who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person,
 - Col. 2:9; For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

VS. 5)

- Notice the result of receiving this ministry, this mercy, to be a bond slave to the saints.
- Though a bond slave yet having only one Master... Jesus.

- **For Jesus sake: Because of all that Jesus did and suffered, and that He put me into this ministry, I do the same.**
 - **Col. 1:24; I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,**

VS. 6)

- **God commanded light to shine.**
 - **Gen. 1:3**
 - **Acts 9:3**
- **He has shined into our hearts that we may shine.**
 - **To give the Light.**
 - **I must personally see this glory, experience this glory to shine it forth to others.**
 - **This light has shown in our hearts that we might, by God's grace, shine it out to the lost.**
 - **This communication of the glory of God will be at great personal cost, but also with great personal privilege and reward. (vs. 12)**
 - **Satan will try to blind us also from seeing this glory, the glory of God as seen in the face of Jesus so we cannot share it to a lost world.**
 - **This is how we preach Christ. (see vs. 5)**
- **Am I partially blind?**
 - **Is the wonder, the beauty, the preciousness of the gospel, the substitutionary death of Christ appreciated as it should be by me?**
 - **Do I place value, and esteem on His life and sacrifice that He and that redemption deserves.**
 - **Is my gratitude greater that angels wonder? It should be.**
 - **What has blinded my eyes?**
 - **The world, self, lust, business, certainly the god of this world.**