

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 1-6 "PART 3.

VS. 1 & 2)

The pressures for a preacher to compromise the gospel for fame or results.

- We do not loose heart, but we do renounce.
 - Loose heart about misuse of the gospel or lack of results.
- Rather than loosing heart, Paul renounced false teaching and then preached the truth and looked to God for the results.
- Paul preached the truth, at all costs.
- Others did not.
 - NASB: but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God,
 - ESV: But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word,
 - **2:17,**
 - **11: 13-15.**
- Paul did not teach hidden, secret things,
- He did not walk in craftiness
- He did not handle the word of God in deceit (falsifying) or to his own advantage.
- But he renounced these things.
- He manifested the truth. He lived his message.
 - Gal. 2:20, I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I
 - 1 JN. 4:17; because as He is, so are we in this world.
- He commended himself and his message to their conscience.
- Paul preached to their conscience, not their emotions.
 - 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Trusting God for the results.

VS. 3)

- *Paul would not loose heart; he would renounce false things and preach the uncompromising truth of the gospel of Christ. (See vs 1, 2)*
- But if his gospel was hidden: (not grasped or appreciated)
 - A hidden, veiled or covered gospel.
 - Hidden from those who are perishing, (total and utter ruin) unbelieving, being wasted, wasting away.
- Vs. 3 & 4 tells us; because they are blind, they do not believe, because they do not, will not believe, they are perishing.
- All are born blind and the blindness can increase gradually

- 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. 1:9-11**; He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

VS. 4)

- If the gospel is veiled, it is not the gospels fault; it is satan's and his blinding, hardening work.
- They are not just veiled, but blinded.
- The gospel is veiled to the unbelieving ones because their minds have been blinded by satan. The god of this age. Who are the gods of this age?
- Satan's work here is to blind men's minds and hearts.
 - Eph. 4:18, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;
- The problem is with the character of those who reject it.
 - **Rom. 1:18-21**;
 - 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.
- 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."
- Oh how mankind needs the Spirit of Christ to open and heal their darkened minds. Men cannot do it on their own.
- Christ Who is the image of God.
 - JN. 1:18; No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
 - Jn. 14:9; He who has seen Me has seen the Father;
 - Heb. 1:3; who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person,

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

- **Are there areas of my mind that have been blinded by satan?**
- **Do I reverence, value, appreciate Christ as He deserves.**
- **Do I value, the price of the atonement, my justification?**
- **From what I see of God in Christ bring me to the cross and there surrender my all? In the proportion that is due?**
- **Has this present culture been used by satan in my life to blind me?**