

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 5-6 "PART 4.

2 Corinthians is the most autobiographical epistle Paul wrote.

VS. 1 & 2)

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

Vs. 3 & 4 tells us; because they are blind, they do not believe, because they do not, will not believe, they are perishing.

- Satan, the god of this age, 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. 3:19; And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

VS. 4)

- If the gospel is veiled, it is not the gospels fault, it is satan's and his blinding, heart hardening work.
 - 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;
 - 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.

VS 5)

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

- "For" points back to what is mentioned above in vs. 4, "our gospel is the gospel of the glory of Christ.
- Paul realizes his preaching, his gospel, was an out-shining of the glory of God in Christ Jesus.
- For Paul did not preach himself, about himself, for his glory, but Christ Jesus as Lord.
 - 1 Cor. 1:23, but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness
 - Acts 5:42, And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
 - Acts 8:35, Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.
 - Col. 1:28, Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

- Paul preached Jesus is not just our Savior, but our Lord.
 - Phil. 2:10, 11; ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Preaching Christ Jesus as Lord is the gospel of the glory of Christ. From this preaching of Jesus there should be a shining forth, a radiance of this glorious gospel beaming forth to those who hear, to those who sit in darkness.
- This was Paul's gospel, he preached Christ Lord, if men don't receive it , comprehend it, it is due to the god of this age having blinded them and the hardening of their hearts.
- To preach any other Christ or gospel is foolishness, for the preaching of Christ bears holy, sacrificial fruit.
- Notice the result of receiving this ministry, this mercy, to be a bond slave to the church, the saints; for Jesus.
- Servant= most common term for a slave/bond=servant. "One whose will is swallowed up in another's".
- Used of Christ Himself Phil 2:7; but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,
- A servant is one who labors for another, not for himself, and in the life of Paul this servanthood to Christ exhibited itself by serving the Church.
- A servant to all but having only one "Master." Though a bond slave yet having but one Master... Jesus.
- Paul is the servant, Jesus is the Lord.

- This service that Paul rendered to the Church was for Jesus sake.
- Paul's motivation and dedication to the church was the out working of his love for Christ and the will of God.
- (Charles Hodge) The idea of the Christian minister as presented here is that he is a preacher of Christ and a servant of the Church, governed and controlled by the love of Jesus"
- Primarily this gospel was not for the good of the Corinthians first, but for the glory of God, then for the good of the saints. God then man.
- For Jesus sake: Because of all that Jesus did and suffered, and that He put Paul into this ministry, Do 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)

⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- "For" points to vs 5 we are servants, Jesus is Lord so we preach Him.
- For God is the one who shines forth into the hearts of men and women, we are powerless, we need the Spirit's aid.
- We see here a reference to Gen. 1:3, "and God said "let there be light."
- A picture of the new creation.
- Also a picture of the life of God shining forth from Christ.
 - Isa. 9:2; The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Lk. 1:79, Mt. 4:16)
 - Was Paul thinking of his conversion? Acts. 9
- See the phrase, "to give."
- The shining forth of the light is not the end to itself but the means to seeing, treasuring, apprehending the wonder and power then applying this knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- The power of being changed from glory unto glory by the Spirit of the Lord. (3:18)
- We were all once in darkness. In fact Eph. 5:8 says For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord.
 - (Acts 26:18) To turn people from darkness, blindness to light was Paul's mission, The Christian has been delivered from the power of darkness;
 - Col. 1:13; He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- And sadly for some will never exiled forever into an endless darkness.
 - Mt. 8:12, 22:43, 25:30, Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind his hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- How wonderful, how absolutely merciful is this gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation. Rom. 1:16/17 for I am not ashamed.....
- (see the Trinity) This gospel is the glory of God, revealed in Christ to us, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.
- The knowledge of God in Christ is not a mere matter of intellectual apprehension which one person may communicate or pass on to another, it is a spirit born apprehension, receiving, discerning derived and born only from the Spirit of God.
 - Mt. 16:17, **1 Cor. 2:10, 14**, Mt. 11:27, John 1:18.
- The glory of Christ was to manifest the glory of the Father which did radiate from His face.
 - John 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*.

- Jesus, the God-Man was so full of the reality and experience of God, the glory of God, it saturated His whole being, and shown forth.
- Mount of Transfiguration Mt. 17:2
- He set His face to go to Jerusalem, **Lk. 9:51**, Isa. 50:7.
- Can I also give light, bear testimony in my life of the glory of God? Yes.
 - 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.
- Do I see the glory of God radiating from His face?
- This is how we preach Christ. (see vs. 5)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

- Preach Christ Jesus Lord. The whole Jesus.
- Has this present culture been used by satan in my life to blind me?
- 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 is the Spirit bringing me to the cross and there to surrender my all? In the proportion that is due?
- **Mt. 5:14-16**; "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

