

1 **II Corinthians 4**2 **II Corinthians 4:1-6**

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 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.

3 **II Corinthians 4:7-14**

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

4 **II Corinthians 4:15-18**

For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

5 **II Corinthians 4 Outline**

- I. The Light of the Gospel
- II. Cast Down but Unconquered
- III. Seeing the Invisible

6 **The Light of the Gospel**

- 1 - Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.
 - *It was by God's mercy that Paul and his co-workers were called to minister for Christ, and because of that mercy, they did not lose heart.*

7 **The Light of the Gospel**

- 2 - But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending

ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

- "Shame" -- *all secret practices, which, when revealed, cause shame*
- "Handling . . . deceitfully" -- *δολοῦντες* -- *used only here in the New Testament -- to adulterate for profit*

8 **The Light of the Gospel**

3 - But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 - whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- "Those who are perishing" -- *those who reject Christ*
- "The god of this age" -- *Satan's limited powers are only in this age, not the next.*

9 **The Light of the Gospel**

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

- *If a teacher is going to have anything to say that will have any spiritual value, it will be of the Lord Jesus and from His word.*
- *We should be servants to others for the sake of Jesus.*
- *Jesus gave us the example of this.*

10 **The Light of the Gospel**

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.

- *God created physical light in the beginning and made it shine out into the universe.*
- *God brought spiritual light into the world in the person of Jesus Christ.*
- *He brings spiritual illumination into the hearts of His people so they can share it with others.*

11 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

7 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

- "Treasure" = "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God"
- "Earthen vessels" -- the most humble of containers

12 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

8 - We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

- "Hard-pressed" -- *θλιβόμενοι* -- *squeezed*
- "Crushed" -- *στενοχωρούμενοι* -- *cramped*
- "Perplexed" -- *ἀπορούμενοι* -- *from ἀ "not," and πόρος, "a passage" -- thus, unable to find a way out*
- "In despair" -- *ἐξαπορούμενοι* -- *utterly ἀπορούμενοι*

13 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

9 - persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

- Persecuted -- *διωκόμενοι* -- *pursued*
- Forsaken -- *ἐγκαταλειπόμενοι* -- *left in the lurch*
- Struck down -- *καταβαλλόμενοι* -- *struck down or thrown down*
- Destroyed -- *ἀπολλύμενοι* -- *destroyed or killed*

14 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

10 - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

11 - For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

- *The same spirit of hostility to good that put Jesus to death is still at work in the world against His servants.*
- *Paul and his co-workers were bodily constantly subject to the prospect of the same putting to death that Jesus suffered.*
- *The daily prospect of violent death was something they carried around with them.*
- *Yet in this the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus was all the more manifest in them.*

15 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

12 - So then death is working in us, but life in you.

- *Some Christians may suffer persecution while others, for a time, may be at ease.*

16 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

13 - And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

14 - knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

- *The same spirit of faith as in the psalmist in Psalm 116:10.*
- *The psalmist was "greatly afflicted," but through faith he was able to call upon God and praise God among the people.*
- *In the same way, because Paul and his co-workers believed God, especially regarding the resurrection, they spoke the message of salvation to the Corinthians and others.*

17 **Cast Down but Unconquered**

15 - For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

- *The gospel is to spread to many, so that, in the end, it will be to God's glory to save many.*

18 **Seeing the Invisible**

16 - Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

- *"Our outward man" -- our physical body*
- *"Is perishing" -- is progressively decaying*
- *"We don't lose heart"*

- *not merely because we have a glorious ministry (verse 1),*
- *not merely because God has shone the light of His knowledge in our hearts (verse 6),*
- *not merely because, though persecuted and afflicted ourselves, we see the results of our ministry bringing glory to God in others (verse 15),*
- *but because our decaying mortal body is only external; there is a spring of life within that can never fail, and that new life comes to us from God through Christ."*

19 Seeing the Invisible

17 - For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

- *The "light affliction" Paul suffered in the furtherance of the gospel (II Corinthians 11:23-27):*
 - *He was frequently imprisoned.*
 - *He was often in peril of death, while traveling, from river-crossings and from bandits on the road, while in town from the gentiles, from his own countrymen, and from some who apparently called themselves Christians ("false brethren").*
 - *On five occasions he received 39 stripes.*
 - *On three occasions he was beaten with rods.*
 - *Once he was stoned.*
 - *He was shipwrecked three times, once floating around in the ocean for a day and a night.*
 - *He also suffered from fatigue, hunger, thirst, and lack of adequate shelter and warm clothing.*

20 Seeing the Invisible

18 - while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- *Paul could consider his affliction light because he did not fix his attention on the things of this world, which are temporary, but on the eternal things of the world to come.*