

The world in which we live is full of "lost sinners", people described by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4 as "them that are lost".

"THE LOST" are people/humans WHO ARE walking in darkness, spiritually blinded in their hearts and minds by Satan, who is the god of this world. "The Lost" are not blinded because they believe nothing, (YES, they are dead in their trespasses and sins), BUT... (IF YOU ARE LOST) YOU are ALSO spiritually blind because YOU ACTIVELY BELIEVE (the lies of the god of this world), and because YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE, or even think upon and consider the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:2-3 Many of the lost are our friends and loved ones! If you're here and you're lost, YOU are one of the ones for whom we constantly pray and do our best to witness and testify of the gospel of Christ! 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
If you're lost, the clear and plain message of the gospel is hidden from YOU, BUT the gospel is NOT a "cryptic, hidden, or vailed message",

In 2 Corinthians 3:12, Paul wrote, we "use great plainness of speech" when we preach the gospel, nothing is hidden or vailed!

BUT the clear and plain message of salvation in the gospel of Christ continues to be hidden from one class of people, THE LOST! This is the power of Satan's influence and "his deceiving spell" that he has cast into the minds of lost sinners in the world; IN YOUR MIND IF YOU'RE LOST... And he will stop at nothing to continue to deceive you!

If you're lost, in your mind, you will NOT BE controlled by God, you're thinking, I don't believe what he is saying, understand THAT YOUR REFUSAL to heed God's Word and turn from your sins to Christ is proof positive that you are under the government and control of Satan!

If you've heard the gospel of Christ multiple times, but you've refused to consider and heed it, but instead you cast it out of your mind, you are living proof that you are controlled and deceived by the devil...
These are probably some of your thoughts (if you're lost) when you hear the gospel of Christ... What will people say of me? What if I stop believing? And then, ... What will I have to give up? I don't agree with that! What about those THINGS that I love to do...pleasures that God calls sinful? I love what God calls sin! I don't think those things are that bad... I think I'm fine if I just keep coming to church now and then, why this sense of urgency?
Is this repentance from sin and faith in Christ really necessary? Is what he is saying ACTUALLY what God requires? I think I will fare better than most! I will take my chances..... I want to enjoy my life; I don't want to be

"RESTRICTED" and "BOUND" to follow all these rules ... I don't want to be a captive of Christ and Christianity! I have time...maybe in years to come....

These lies of Satan are all part of his designs and tactics to KEEP you lost and dead in your sins!

Satan is tireless in his work of deceiving the lost because he knows that when God commands the gospel light to shine in the sinner's heart, he is powerless to prevent it.

a. He knows if the good seed of the word takes root in the heart of ANY lost sinner, it will dispel the darkness in that sinner's mind, chase it away, and the message of Christ will no longer be hidden, but revealed and believed!

Romans 1:16-17, Colossians 1:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 2:13

Paul likened the power of the gospel shining forth in the heart of a lost sinner to be like the Genesis creation, when God commanded the light to shine forth into the darkness! 2 Corinthians 4:6, Genesis 1:1-4, John 1:5

And then, Paul told the Church at Corinth, (and he is teaching us), THIS IS THE MINISTRY of the NT Church ... "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"!

This is how the "light of God shines" in the world, through the preaching of the gospel of Christ! THIS TRUE LIGHT (WHICH) was long prophesied of, long waited for ... Luke 2:29-32

Isaiah 9:1-2, Matthew 4:13-16, John 12:46

Paul knew, if sinners would be saved from their sins and from Satan's tyranny, and from his blinding power and influence, IT WOULD BE because they preached Christ!

"For we preach NOT OURSELVES, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and OURSELVES YOUR SERVANTS for Jesus' sake"

"In the face of Jesus Christ" ... What was Paul's intent in penning this term?

This was a contrast of what was written of Moses' face, which shined when he came down from Mount Sinai, signifying that there were things which the children of Israel could not yet understand under the old covenant. But also, the glory and shining of Moses' face eventually faded, this signifying that a New Covenant would come, which would do away with the old covenant!

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, HATH SHINED IN OUR HEARTS, (THAT didn't happen at Mount Sinai, the shining of Moses's veiled face could NOT do what the gospel of Jesus Christ WILL DO in the heart of a penitent and believing sinner).

God has SHINED His light into our hearts by the unveiled face of Jesus Christ, meaning, THIS BRIGHT LIGHT of the

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! When God commands it to shine, the darkness must flee!

THERE IS NOTHING HIDDEN or VEILED in the gospel of Christ, but it clearly REVEALS & SHINES the LIGHT of truth and THE WAY of salvation to lost sinners, the Law of Moses could never do that! THIS MOUNTAIN is no hiding place!

John 3:19-21, 14:6

2 Corinthians 4:7: This glorious ministry is accomplished by weak, contemptible and imperfect humans! Crumbling earthen vessels!

We have THIS TREASURE in EARTHEN VESSELS/CLAY POTS; THIS TREASURE has intrinsic value, (in and of itself, it is of great value), and it is DEPOSITED BY GOD into a relatively worthless and frail earthen vessels!

The earthen vessel or clay pot, which had no real value is now useful because of the treasure deposited within! Jeremiah 32:14

In our text, the EARTHEN VESSEL (this CLAY POT) IS the human body with all its weaknesses and frailties and human imperfections! YET (with the treasure within) it is NOW USED of God and USEFUL as the instrument of God in revealing/dispensing this treasure! WHAT IS THIS TREASURE?

(V6): "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" ... IT'S the glorious gospel of Christ!

WHY would such a great treasure and a task of such monumental importance be entrusted to such weak, frail, and contemptible creatures?

THINK ABOUT IT, it would make more sense that a heavenly angelic being would be the messenger of this glorious gospel message from the King, and that he would preach salvation, repentance from sin and faith in Christ! That would be powerful wouldn't it??

But if that was the case, everyone would worship the heavenly angelic preacher rather than God! Regrettably THIS happens now when people worship earthen vessels rather than Christ...

BUT... God didn't entrust His glorious message to heavenly angelic beings to preach, He entrusted His glorious gospel to frail humans... That's how God determined to spread the glorious gospel message... He determined to use weak and contemptible creatures to preach the gospel... WHY?

"That the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us"

That all will see (saith Paul) the excellency of God's power (when a sinner is saved), and that, THAT power was in the message of Christ... we (saith Paul) have no power or ability in and of ourselves to change the hearts and lives of ANY SINNER, but when we preach and sinners are saved, you cannot deny that the excellency of that power CAME FROM GOD!

God commands the light of gospel truth to shine forth
in the hearts of lost sinners and they are saved!

God (saith Paul) DEPOSITS HIS GOSPEL treasure in earthen vessels to preach, so that He would ALL THE MORE get the glory! This brings us back to what Paul said in (V5):

"For we preach NOT OURSELVES, (THERE'S NO POWER IN THAT), but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake"

What do you believe today about Jesus Christ? What do you believe about His bloody cross? His death? His burial? His resurrection?

Don't cast aside the truth of the gospel... If you do, you are living proof that you are under the government and power of the god of this world.

John 3:19-21