



A Letter of Grace 2 Corinthians

The Gospel of the Glory of Christ
(4:1-6)

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Introduction

- A continuance of Paul defending his call and ministry in contrast to those who peddle God's Word
- A response to those who claimed that his preaching was obscured and complicated (at best), or simply not truly in line with the Jewish Scriptures
- These "super-apostles", from which the accusation likely comes, were known as self-promoters and exalted their own rhetorical abilities and persuasive speech

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Their *Ministry* of the Gospel (1-2)

The *Veiling* of the Gospel (3-4)

The *Revealing* of the Gospel (5-6)

3

Their *Ministry* of the Gospel (1-2)

Therefore,
 having *this* ministry ^{3:6} by the mercy of God,
 we do not *lose heart*.

But we have renounced *disgraceful, underhanded ways*. ^{2:17}

We refuse to practice *cunning*
 or to *tamper* with God's word,
 but by the *open statement* of the truth
 we would commend ourselves to everyone's *conscience*
 in the sight of God.

4

The *Veiling* of the Gospel (3-4)

And even if our gospel is *veiled*,
it is veiled to those who are *perishing*.

In their case *the god of this world* ^{John12:31}
has *blinded the minds* of the unbelievers,
to *keep them* from seeing
the *light* of the gospel of *the glory of Christ*, ^{Acts26:18}
who is the *image of God*. ^{Heb1:3}

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The *Revealing* of the Gospel (5-6)

For what we proclaim is *not* ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as *Lord*,
with ourselves as your *servants* for Jesus' sake.

For God, who *said*, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
has *shone* in our hearts
to *give the light* of the knowledge of the glory of God
in *the face* of Jesus Christ.

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Application

- “The glorified Christ is the ultimate and eschatological revelation of God. There is nothing more that can or will be seen of God.” (Barnett)
- The mysterious connection between our proclamation of the Good News and God’s work Acts 13:48/14:1
 - Proclaiming *Christ* - contrasted to preaching ourselves, Christianity, the church, or even the Bible
- The possible error of throwing faithful past pastors/teachers under the bus because of our given light (i.e. “I never heard the Gospel at that church”)

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Application

- The reality of a clear message being obscured in the eyes of some
 - until God acts in a creative fiat
 - Thus, the need for *earnest prayer* that God would do what we cannot do through mere presentation and arguments
 - Nevertheless, the need for our following *the example* of Paul in his exercise of New Covenant ministry
- What is *your* current response to the Good News of God in Jesus Christ?
 - If you believe, you should identify yourself as a follower of Jesus, and pursue baptism and church membership

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