

The Life and Letters of Paul

2 Corinthians 4

1. The task of ministering the New Covenant was too noble to lose heart over So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel...). Since God had called him to proclaim it, Paul could not abandon his calling. Instead, he trusted God to strengthen him

2 Corinthians 4:1/ Gal. 6:9; Eph. 3:13/

2. The phrase "hidden things of shame" refers to secret immoralities, hypocrisies, and the sins hidden deep in the darkness of one's life. At salvation every believer repents and turns away from such sin and devotes his life to the pursuit of godliness.

2 Corinthians 4:2/Colossians 3:8- get rid of / 1 Peter 2:1- get rid of these things

3. The false teachers accused Paul of preaching an antiquated message. So Paul showed that the problem was not with the message or the messenger, but with the hearers headed for hell. The preacher cannot persuade people to believe; only God can do that.

2 Corinthians 4:3/1 Corinthians 2:14- It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it,

4. Satan blinds men to God's truth through the world system he has created. Without a godly influence, man left to himself will follow that system, which panders to the depravity of unbelievers and deepens their moral darkness.

2 Corinthians 4:4/John 12:31-satan the ruler of this world/1 John 5:19-the world is under control of the evil one.

5. Paul was adamant that when preaching this Gospel that it is never about us or our ability to do this but first and foremost about Jesus, that is the light that in the darkness.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6/1 Corinthians 2:3- Paul was cautious of the power of the word/ Genesis 1:3- into of light/ John 1:5-The light shines in the darkness,

6. When we are obedient in proclaiming the Gospel for God's glory we become a conduit.

2 Corinthians 4:7/2 Timothy 2:20-22- what type of vessel are you being used for?

7. Here Paul gave 4 contrasting metaphors to show that his weakness did not cripple him, but actually strengthened him. How do you react to obstacles in your life?

2 Corinthians 4:8-10-pressed, crushed, perplexed and hunted/ 2 Corinthians 12:9-10- made perfect in weakness/

8. Does the fact that you serve the Lord make it difficult to live in certain environments and how do you handle this adversity?

2 Corinthians 4:11-12/John 15:18-20- In the world but not of it.

9. Paul speaks so highly of the Gospel and his calling to it, he does this not for him or motive but to see the Glory of God. Why do you do what you do?

2 Corinthians 4:13-15/116:10- like the psalmist/ 1 Cor. 10:31- in all things

10. Paul states that giving up is not an option, this calling is bigger than him, his troubles and the reward is eternity.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18/ Rom. 8:18- suffering for a moment/ 1 Peter 1:6-wonderful joy ahead.