

3 Ministry of the Gospel is how God binds Christian community/church together "Therefore having this ministry by the mercy of God..."

✦ Ministry of the Gospel has incredible potential to build the church

✦ Dysfunctional Ministry of the Gospel has incredible potential to damage the church Mars Hill

➡ Vital that you and I have a standard, a model, by which to evaluate.

## ① Message

### ☰ Message of the Gospel

1. Paul does not manipulate his hearers vs 2

2. Paul does not alter Θ's WORD

We refuse... to tamper w. Θ's Word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God." vs. 2

Walter Kaiser

### 3. Paul proclaims Jesus Christ as LORD

- ☑ light of the gospel [good news] of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, vs 4
- ☑ proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus as **LORD**
- ☑ For God, who said, "let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

➡ Startling truth = God is known rightly, intimately only through Jesus Christ

**TEST** Right preach/teaching of God's Word ▶  
Not self but Jesus

Why do many not believe? The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers

② Mode "The medium is the message" McLuhan

**☐☐** But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God + not to us...

 Strength/Power <sup>through</sup> in weakness

is the theme of 2 Corinthians 1:8ff, 2:12ff, 3:5ff, 6:4ff, 7:5ff, 10:17ff, 11:23ff, 12:5+9, 13:4

✦ So human weakness, limits, struggles, brokenness, vulnerability

✦ Jesus Beauty *life of Jesus (vs 11)* the treasure displayed

➡ So countercultural, so not Seattle, east-side that values \$, success, competence, performance; the mode of Gospel Ministry *Strength thru Weakness*

*My discovery, Church Planting Assessment... Ministry Began!*

Test Does this person "shine" or are they a broken vessel letting Jesus shine through them?

③ Motivation ... Vital b/c Gospel Ministry so hard!

☰☰ 2 Corinthians Paul is answering critiques of False Apostles, also sub-text of *Chapter 4*, Also *we are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not destroyed...carrying in the body the death of Jesus*

How? Long-term, faithful Gospel Ministry?

1. God will finish the Work he has begun  
*raise us...and bring us into his presence w. you Betty Sather's burial*

2. Look forward to an *eternal weight of glory*

➡ *Do not lose heart b/c the Gospel is our Motivation!*