

# L9: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6: Faint Not

## Sermon Intro: Review/Summarize

- Paul declaration of God's perspective in things that provides the comfort in the midst of suffering.
- Paul's ableness to minister the new testament and a particular edification ministry provided for by the new testament.

## Sermon Preview:

- Attack of Paul's character particularly from ones without
  - Sufferings of Christ
  - God's comfort
    - The glorious view and understanding of things that he is doing which produce the suffering are his comfort.

## Sermon:

**(2 Corinthians 4:1) Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;**

- "Therefore"
  - Due to God's making of Paul an able minister of the new testament and knowing the glory of the new testament.
- "seeing we have this ministry"
  - This edification ministry in view of the new testament of beholding Christ in the gospel and the word of truth.
  - "seeing" - "as in a glass" - "the eyes of their understanding" - "walk by faith" - "spirit of faith"
- "as we have received mercy"
  - Romans 12:3
    - Romans 15
  - The spiritual things of the new testament that the Spirit of God provides Paul writes for others to be the epistle of Christ.
- "we faint not"

- Weak, wane, feeble, cowardly, dejected, fail in strength, to lose courage or spirit
- The mercy Paul received has provision and purpose
  - He is fully equipped to provide what the ministry calls for
  - The purpose is so grand, so tremendous
- He is anchored and motivated

**(2 Corinthians 4:2) But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, 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"** - the opposite of true, Paul doesn't faint and in view of the ministry he speaks with clarity and plainness of speech
- The specific accusations and charges of being dishonest, crafty, and deceitful
  - **"renounced"** - to disown; to disclaim; to refuse to own or acknowledge as belonging to; to deny; to cast off or reject
  - **"the hidden things of dishonesty"**
    - These others are dishonest and thus their dishonesty hides the truth
    - Paul explains he renounces their dishonesty
    - This "hidden" is similar to that which the Jews had, this blindness
- **"not walking in craftiness"**
  - Paul is blamed for walking in craftiness that he isn't "pure" in all of his walk or handling of the word of God.
    - Php. 4:8-9; 1 The. 2:1-12 (:1-8, the word of God; :9-12, their walk)
  - **"nor handling the word of God deceitfully"**
    - 1 Cor. 3:19; Eph. 4:14
    - **"deceit"** - misleading, fraudulent;
      - Flattering words
      - Cloke of covetousness
      - Nor sought glory
- **"but by manifestation of the truth"**
  - Christ has revealed truth to Paul and he is making it known

- **"commending ourselves to every man's conscience"**
  - Shining the light of truth commends yourself to every man's conscience
    - In word and walk
  - **"in the sight of God"**
    - God takes record and this is true
  - Paul commends himself to everyman's conscience - they will not find any reason in him to not respond positively to him as God's minister and to God's word as he preaches it to them

**(2 Corinthians 4:3) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

**(2 Corinthians 4:4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

- Those that respond negatively is not because Paul is dishonest or not upright, in person or in handling God's word, but respond so because they have chosen not to believe the gospel and are thus blinded by "the god of this world".
- **"but if our gospel be hid"**
  - Paul has renounced the hidden things of dishonesty of against him and the doctrine
  - The gospel isn't hid because of Paul's handling of the word of God, nor his walk
  - Another reason altogether for which it is "hid"
- **"it is hid to them that are lost"**
  - **"lost"** - bewildered, perplexed, not able to find the right way
    - "which believe not" - the things that Paul teaches are hid because they haven't believe the gospel and just like the blindness of Israel to the ministrations of the letter, those lost are blinded to the glories of what Paul teaches in the gospel
    - 1 Cor. 2 - Review
- **"in whom the god of this world"**
  - **"in whom"** - those that are lost and the gospel is hid
  - **"the god of this world"** - in connection with its wisdom and course

- The prince of the world
  - The prince of the power of the air
- **"hath blinded the minds of them which believe not"**
  - By not believing there is a blinding that takes place
  - Not able to find the right way
- **"lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."**
  - **"lest"** - if they weren't blinded the light of the gospel could shine unto them
  - **"the light of the glorious gospel of Christ"**
    - Romans 1:16 - the gospel of Christ
    - Romans 2 - judgment of God according to truth
      - Romans 1 - foolish hearts were darkened
    - The gospel is the light to that foolish darkened hearts
  - **"who is the image of God"**
    - Heb. 1 - express image of His person and brightness of His glory
      - John 1
    - The cross is the display of love and grace, His mind wrapped up and evidently set forth in the gospel
  - **"should shine unto them."**
    - These "others", some of "the others" are unbelievers and therefore ridicule and slander Paul's message and walk because the gospel hasn't shined unto them.
      - Php. 1

**(2 Corinthians 4:5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.**

- Paul is not egotistical, self-serving, or self-promoting in his ministry
- Rather Paul is there servant for Jesus' sake
  - That they made be conformed to the image of Christ from glory to glory

**(2 Corinthians 4:6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

- Paul truly want the spotlight upon Christ in his ministry

- **"For God"**
  - Ultimately who they should trace the message and his walk back to
  - **"who commanded the light to shine out of darkness"**
    - The Creator
    - Goes back to the first test of the gospel of Christ
      - Romans 1:16-20
- **"hath shined in our hearts"**
  - He has shined in Paul's heart
  - Why?
- **"to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."**
  - Seeking His face involves beholding Him as in a glass
  - The glory is in the words of God - this is a peculiar glory that's brightness is not seen, but, oh, is it seen by the eyes of understanding - awake, open them
- God shines in our hearts initially unto this end, that the light of the knowledge of God's glory may be understood in Christ.

**Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize**