



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

October 31, 2021

2 Corinthians 4: Fix Your Eyes On What Is Unseen

Verse 1:

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
(2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

Our New Ministry:

1. Freedom - "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)
2. Contemplate His Glory - "But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?" (Galatians 4:9)
3. Transformed – "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." (Romans 8:29)

"There is the memory of mercy received. It was Paul's aim to spend all his life seeking to do something for the love which had redeemed him." (William Barclay)

"All that God did for Paul, He would do for every believer not only to help them tell others of the gospel, but to help them to keep on growing to be like Jesus." (Men of the Round Table)

Read verse 2:

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God. (2 Corinthians 2:17)

So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the Gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. (1 Timothy 1:8-9)

Verses 3-4:

*“He brings mental confusion, hardness, blindness, even a literal veil, a prideful veil to cover over the very words of God.”
(Men of the Round Table)*

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.” (John 12:39-40)

Verses 5-6:

I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (Acts 26:17-18)

Application:

Clothe yourselves with His glory

Colossians 3:12

1 Peter 3:8

Ephesians 6:11-17

Galatians 5:22-23

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

קְבוֹד: splendor, glory, weight

Δόξα: glory, renown, or weighty

Light momentary troubles

Momentary

Outside

Intense

Eternal glory (weighty)

Eternal

Inside

So much more intense

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,
but on what is unseen,
since what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)*

HOME GROUP Questions for 2 Corinthians 4...

1. What do you think Paul meant by “secret and shameful” ways in verse 2? Do you think this refers only to those who preach the Gospel, or does this refer to all who profess Christ? Read the following passages and discuss how they relate to verse 2:
 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - 2 Peter 2:1
 - 2 Corinthians 2:17
 - 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 1 John 1:5-7
2. Read the following passages and discuss how they relate to verse 3 and 4 of this week’s scripture passage.
 - 1 Peter 5:8
 - 2 Corinthians 11:14
 - 2 Corinthians 11:14
 - Matthew 13:19
 - Ephesians 6:11
3. How can verses 7-12 of this week’s Scripture and the following passages help us when going through fiery trials?
 - 1 Peter 4:12-14
 - Romans 8:35-37
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Luke 9:23
 - John 12:24
 - Romans 12:1
 - 2 Timothy 3:12