

## “The Blind Are Being Made to See” 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

**Theme:** The only way a person can be delivered from darkness is to hear the message about Christ.

### I. The Boldness of the Truth – 4:1-2

#### A. The Receiving of Courage – v. 1

1. Paul brings the matter of the superiority of the New Covenant ministry to a climax by stating, – *“Therefore since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart ...”*
2. *“this ministry”* refers to the New Covenant ministry that relies upon grace rather than the law, the Spirit rather than the letter, and the mercy of God rather than the justice of the law.
3. The *“mercy”* we have *“received”* enables us to *“not lose heart”* [ἔγκρακέω] – a term that refers to losing one’s motivation in continuing a desirable pattern of activity – to become discouraged or fearful.
4. Regardless of the opposition we might encounter for following Christ and relying on the Gospel, we do not surrender or give up.
5. We have seen the glory of God in Christ through the enlightenment by the Holy Spirit who has illumined our eyes and nothing can dissuade us from following Christ!

#### B. The Refusal to Compromise – v. 2a

1. As a result, we refuse to compromise – *“but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God.”*
2. Paul is contrasting his ministry with the ministry of false teachers who use the Gospel to promote themselves even over Christ Jesus.
3. *“shame”* [αἰσχύνη] – refers to things a person does which, when discovered, cause embarrassment or humiliation.
4. It is only in the transparency of righteousness, honesty, transparency, and integrity that Gospel ministry is based – when “spiritual leaders” rely on such things as duplicity, hypocrisy, manipulations, intimidations, and coercions, the Gospel is besmirched and compromised.
5. Paul denounced such things and said he was *“not walking in*

**craftiness” [πανουργία]** – lit. “readiness to do anything” – pragmatic tactics that “work.” – cp. ***Ephesians 4:14***.

6. Such leaders are **“adulterating the word of God” [δολόω]** – to make the **“word of God”** false through distortion; to falsify.
  - a) *This word was used to describe the corruption of gold or wine by including inferior ingredients.*
  - b) *Such leaders are con men, charlatans who do not love the truth but who use God’s Word to lure naive people to “buy what they’re selling” – cp. ***2 Corinthians 2:17***.*
7. Paul’s statement demonstrates that he wants nothing to do with the pragmatism of self-promoting tactics that water down the truth of Scripture to “sell” Christianity to willing consumers.

### C. **The Reliance on the Conscience – v. 2b**

1. Instead of pragmatism, Paul relied on the simple truths of God’s Word — **“... but by the manifestation of truth”**—he wasn’t “selling” a product but simply and boldly declaring the **“truth”** of God’s Word and allowing it to do its work.
2. **“manifestation” [φανέρωσις]** – is the word for disclosure – the opposite of **“things hidden”** above.
3. Paul loved the truth and believed that others who heard it would love it, too, so he shamelessly and boldly declared it.
4. He knew that the power to convert the heart lies in the Word of God – as it activates the **“conscience”** – **“... commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”** – cp. ***Hebrews 4:12***.
5. Faith is something generated by the Word of Christ – cp. ***Romans 10:17***.

## II. **The Blindness to the Truth – 4:3-4**

### A. **The Blindness of the Perishing – v. 3**

1. Paul relied upon God’s Word and not some pragmatic ploy because the problem was not one of decision; it was one of blindness.
2. He clearly believes that people do not believe because they are blinded to the truth by means of their sin and depravity – **“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.”**
3. He has already established that until a person turns to Christ, their

understanding is veiled – cp. [2 Corinthians 3:16](#).

4. Because they do not embrace the Gospel, they are *“perishing”* – cp. [John 3:18](#).
5. Their love for their sin and the hardness of their hearts create the blindness to the Gospel – cp. [John 3:19-20](#).
6. They refuse to see because they do not want to change – they prefer condemnation to consecration.

**B. The Blinding by the Pretender – v. 4**

1. Not only are they blinded by their sin and depravity, they are blinded by Satan who uses their love of sin to blind them – *“... in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*
2. *“The god of this world”* describes the influence of Satan over those who serve him – cp. [Ephesians 2:2-3](#).
3. They completely miss *“the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ”* – cp. [John 1:14](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#).
4. *“who is the image of God”* [Εἰκῶν] – cp. [Colossians 1:15](#).
5. Satan thus *“blinds the minds of the unbelieving”* through a variety of means:
  - a) *Deception* – [2 Corinthians 11:14](#).
  - b) *Sinful indulgences* - [Ephesians 2:1-2](#).
  - c) *False Teaching* – [1 Timothy 4:1](#).
  - d) *Pride* – [1 John 2:16](#).
  - e) *Fear & Anxiety* – [1 Peter 5:8](#).

**III. The Brightness of the Truth – 4:5-6**

**A. The Preaching of Christ – v. 5**

1. The antidote to the deceptions and blindness of the unbelieving is the simple, unadulterated proclamation of Christ and His accomplishments.
2. Paul states, *“For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord ...”*
3. The false teachers preached lessons that were self-promoting and prideful of their own attainments, claiming superiority to other

teachers—cp. [2 Corinthians 10:12](#).

4. Paul stated that what is needed to open the eyes of the unbelieving is to see Christ, and thus we *“preach ... Christ Jesus as Lord”* – cp. [1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2](#).
5. New Covenant teachers want people to hear of Christ, see Christ, believe in Christ, know Christ, serve Christ, and submit to Christ *“... as Lord”* – [Acts 2:36](#).
6. We see ourselves as slaves of Christ to promote Christ – *“... and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.”*

**B. The Preeminence of Christ – v. 6**

1. When Christ is preached, God quickens hearts and sinners are illumined and see clearly – *“For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”*
2. Paul uses the analogy of the Creator who first created light now causing light to shine spiritually—cp. [Genesis 1:3](#).
3. God causes, by His grace and mercy, those who were once in bondage of darkness to be illumined by His glory *“in the face of Christ”* – cp. [Colossians 1:12-13](#).
4. Jesus Christ Himself is the Light of the world – cp. [John 1:6-9; 12:46](#).
5. This is why we preach Christ and Him crucified.

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