

Looking Into the Glory of the Lord 2

Jesus is always with us ... and He cares. The reality, privilege, and good news of the New Covenant is that God is personally and intimately known to us by looking into the face of Jesus Christ. At all times in the Christian experience, the vision is Christ. This was certainly the case for Paul, who spent the vast majority of his life focusing on Jesus. When he looked at the glory of the Lord he found the sustaining power for every issue of life. In Jesus he found joy, hope, reassurance, and confidence. This is not something only reserved for Paul - this is for all of us. What happens when we look to Christ ... keeping our eyes fixed on Him:

I. We Find Purity

- A. 2 Corinthians 4.2a: *Instead, we have **renounced** secret and shameful things, not acting deceitfully...*
 - 1. Renounced: To disown, put aside, or reject.
 - 2. Now, because of fixing his eyes on Jesus, Paul was committed to purity.
 - 3. We'll come to hate sin. Paul's attitude:
 - a) Romans 7.24: *what a wretched man I am! Who will **rescue** me from this body of death?*
 - b) Paul hated sin. And so, he turned from it and devoted his life to the pursuit of godliness. This is a pursuit ... not perfection.
- B. Secret & Shameful Things
 - 1. **Shameful** refers to something dishonorable. Something ugly.
 - 2. Secret immoralities; sins hidden where no one else sees.
- C. Acting **Deceitfully**
 - 1. Wicked character. Treachery. Cunning Craftiness. Trickery.
 - 2. Paul certainly renounced such things. Totally committed to purity.

II. We find Truth

- A. 2 Corinthians 4.2b: *...not ... **distorting** the word of God. Instead, we (are) ...commending ourselves before God to everyone's conscience by an open display of the truth.*
- B. 4.2b: Distorting is translated "adulterated" in NASB. (To tamper with or dilute.)
- C. 4.2b: This impacted the conscience of the people who received his message.
 - 1. Speaking simply, with the undiluted and uncluttered truth goes straight to our heart.
 - 2. We need to be committed to *an open display of the **truth**.*
 - 3. Why? Because it leads to conviction ... which leads to salvation and sanctification.
 - 4. Hebrews 4.12: *For the **word of God** is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*
- D. We do this **before God**. It doesn't matter what others think or believe.

III. As We Close...

- A. So we need to keep our eyes on Jesus ... know Him deeply.
- B. Paul never took his eyes off Christ. Philippians 1.21: *For me, to **live** is Christ ... Christ was his life.*
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3: *For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy, because I have promised you in marriage to one husband—to present a pure virgin to Christ. But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and **pure** devotion to Christ.*
 - 1. What is Christian living all about?
 - 2. Single minded, pure, loyal love to Christ. Undivided attraction & affection.
 - 3. Where is your focus?