



“PROCLAMATION!”

2 Corinthians Chapter 4

> In this chapter we have FOUR PROCLAMATIONS:

- (v1-2) PROCLAMATION #1 – PROCLAIM THE TRUTH!

- (v3-6) PROCLAMATION #2 – PROCLAIM CHRIST JESUS THE LORD!

- (v7-15) PROCLAMATION #3 – PROCLAIM FAITH & GRACE!

- (v16-18) PROCLAMATION #4 – PROCLAIM ETERNITY!

> (v1-2) PROCLAMATION #1 – PROCLAIM THE TRUTH!

- Without “shame” – For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. – Ephesians 5:8-12

- Without “craftiness” – 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 - But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!

Ephesians 4:14-16 - that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- Without “deception” – Matthew 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

- Here's insight from Warren Wiersbe, “If Paul was such a faithful teacher of the Word, then why did not more people believe his message? Why were the false teachers so successful in winning converts? Because the mind of the lost sinner is blinded by Satan, and fallen man finds it easier to believe lies than to believe truth.”

- What is TRUTH? (John 18:33-38 – Pilate confronting Jesus)

John 18:37 - Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

- The word TRUTH is found 228 times in the Bible.

- **Truth is a moral and personal characteristic of God:** He is *"the God of truth"* (Isaiah 65:16). The psalmist declared, *"Your law is truth"* (119:142), *"all Your commandments are truth"* (119:151), and *"the entirety of Your word is truth"* (119:160). Because of His perfect nature and will, God must speak and act in truth; He cannot lie (1 Samuel 15:29; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:17-18).

Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh, *"the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). All Jesus said was true, because He told the truth which He heard from God (John 8:40).

Jesus promised His disciples that He would send *"the Spirit of truth"* (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) - a Helper who would abide in Christians forever (John 14:16), testify about Jesus (John 15:26), guide Christians into all truth (John 16:13), and glorify Jesus (John 16:14). God is truth; the Spirit is truth; and Jesus is truth.

Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). Jesus and the revelation which the Spirit of truth gave through His apostles are the final, ultimate revelation and definition of truth about God, man, redemption, history, and the world. *"The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"* (John 1:17). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

> (v3-6) PROCLAMATION #2 – PROCLAIM CHRIST JESUS THE LORD!

- Who is the "god of this age"? Answer: Satan.

- What has Satan done to those who are "perishing"? Answer: *"Blinded the minds of those who do not believe"*

> HOW DOES SATAN BLIND A MIND? (Ten common lies of the devil)

- LIE #1 - **There is no God!** – Psalms 14:1 - *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.*

- LIE #2 - **There is no devil!** - John 8:44-45 - *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

- LIE #3 - **Live immorally, it is OK, God will not send everyone to hell!** – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*

- LIE #4 - **Just believe, but do not commit!** – Mark 8:34-38 - *"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

- LIE #5 - Your sins cannot be forgiven! – Isaiah 1:18 - *Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow"*

- LIE #6 - Your life will never change! You will just be a hypocrite! – Matthew 11:28-30 - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

- LIE #7 - You cannot trust the Bible it is written by men! – 2 Peter 1:19-21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

- LIE #8 - All roads lead to God! – John 14:6 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

- LIE #9 - Everyone is going to heaven! – John 3:36 - *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

- LIE #10 - There is no hurry! – 2 Corinthians 6:2 - *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

> PREACH CHRIST!!! - John's Gospel is a portrait on how to preach Christ!

- JESUS IS:

Ch. 1 – *The Son of God*

Ch. 2 – *The Son of Man*

Ch. 3 – *The Divine Teacher*

Ch. 4 – *The Soul-Winner*

Ch. 5 – *The Great Physician*

Ch. 6 – *The Bread of Life*

Ch. 7 – *The Water of Life*

Ch. 8 – *The Defender of the Weak*

Ch. 9 – *The Light of the World*

Ch. 10 – *The Good Shepherd*

Ch. 11 – *The Prince of Life*

Ch. 12 – *The King*

Ch. 13 – *The Servant*

Ch. 14 – *The Consoler*

Ch. 15 – *The True Vine*

Ch. 16 – *The Giver of the Holy Spirit*

Ch. 17 – *The Great Intercessor*

Ch. 18 – *The Model Sufferer*

Ch. 19 – *The Uplifted Savior*

Ch. 20 – *The Conqueror of Death*

Ch. 21 – *The Restorer of the Penitent*

> **(v7-15) PROCLAMATION #3 – PROCLAIM FAITH & GRACE!**

(v7) We have this “TREASURE” in our hearts, let Him out by the “POWER” of God, how? Pray—Practice—Preach!

(v8-12) One commentator writes, “The test of a true ministry is not stars, but scars.” *“From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus”* (Galatians 6:17).

(v13-15) We all have the same “*spirit of faith,*” all believers will be raised to heaven, and it’s by the gift of “grace” - Ephesians 2:8-10 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

> **(v16-18) PROCLAMATION #4 – PROCLAIM ETERNITY!**

- Be RENEWED day by day - Ephesians 4:20-24 - *But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- Focus on ETERNITY!!! - John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*