

Paul's Second
Letter to the
Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

-- 2 Cor 4:6

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
- Discussion Questions
- Outline & Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:1–6 (ESV)

4 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.
2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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Summary Statement

Paul asserts that since, by the mercy of God, he has a transformative, new covenant ministry, he does not grow weary, and that having renounced underhanded methods, this open and transparent preaching commends him to everyone. Even if the gospel is veiled, it is to those who are perishing, who are blinded by Satan so they cannot see the light of the gospel, the glory of Christ who is the image of God. Paul's ministry is not a promotion of himself, but of Jesus' lordship, with himself as a servant to the Corinthians. Because as God caused light to shine at creation, so he has given light to the hearts of Paul and the Corinthians enabling them to comprehend the glory of God as seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians

Discussion Questions

1. In 4:1, “Therefore” indicates a connection between this passage and the one preceding. What is that connection?

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Discussion Questions

2. What is “this ministry” that Paul says he has?

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Discussion Questions

3. What part does “the mercy of God” play in Paul’s ministry?

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Discussion Questions

4. In our passage, how does Paul go about commending himself?

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Discussion Questions

5. How does our passage describe Jesus Christ?

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Discussion Questions

6. Which historical event does this passage use to illustrate the light of the gospel and its effect?

The Light of the Gospel

I. A Ministry by God's Mercy vv 1-2

- A. Enabled v1
- B. Enabling v1
- C. Transformative v1
- D. Transparent v2
- E. Validating v2

II. The Blinding of Unbelieving Minds vv 3-4

- A. The Veiling of the Gospel v3
- B. The State of those Affected v3
- C. The God of This World v4
- D. The Light of the Gospel v4

III. The Shining of God's Glory vv 5-6

- A. Jesus as Lord v5
- B. Paul as Servant v5
- C. Face of Jesus v6