

Study 4

Read 2 Corinthians Chapter 4

SUMMARY

Paul continues his defense of himself and his ministry. With such a glorious ministry described in chapter three, he does not get discouraged. Instead he has renounced the use of deceitful tactics and openly proclaims the truth (1-2). If the gospel seems veiled, it is only to those whom Satan has blinded so they might not see the light of the gospel (3-4). Paul is simply preaching Christ Jesus as Lord and considers himself as a servant for their sakes. He humbly realizes that it is God who has shone in his heart so he might share that light of the gospel with others (5-6).

As magnificent this "treasure" may be, he is simply an "earthen vessel". As such he experiences great suffering in his ministry, but he knows that God allows it so that the "life of Jesus" (the power of God) might be manifested in his mortal body by the way he endures it, and that such grace from God might cause much thanksgiving to the glory of God (7-15). In addition, he does not lose heart because his inward man is renewed daily by the knowledge that affliction is light and temporary compared to the eternal weight of glory that awaits him, and by keeping his focus on things which are unseen but eternal (16-18).

Questions:

- 1) What did Paul renounce since he had this ministry? (II Corinthians 4:1-2)

- 2) In what did Paul not walk since he had this ministry? (II Corinthians 4:1-2)

- 3) Since Paul had the ministry (of the gospel) how did he not handle the word of God? (II Corinthians 4:1-3)

- 4) According to Paul to what class is the gospel hid? (II Corinthians 4:3)

- 5) Who has blinded the minds of them which believe not? (II Corinthians 4:4)

- 6) What light does the God of this world wish unbelievers not to behold? (II Corinthians 4:4)

7) Who is the image of God? (II Corinthians 4:4)

8) Who was the subject of Paul's preaching? (II Corinthians 4:5)

9) In what relationship does Paul represent himself when he preaches Christ? (II Corinthians 4:5)

10) When Paul preached Christ and represented himself as a servant for whose sake does he do this? (II Corinthians 4:5)

11) God commanded the Light to shine out of darkness when the world was created, where else does God's light shine according to Paul? (II Corinthians 4:6)

12) When God's light shines in the hearts of man what light is given? (II Corinthians 4:6)

13) In whose face is glory of God reflected? (II Corinthians 4:6)

14) Paul wrote the Corinthians he was "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus." Give his reason for this. (II Corinthians 4:10)

15) Unto what are the living always delivered? (II Corinthians 4:11)

16) In whose behalf are the living always delivered unto death? (II Corinthians 4:11)

17) It is written in the Old Testament "I believe and therefore I have spoken." Who also stated he believed and therefore spoke? (II Corinthians 4:13)

18) What reason does Paul give for believing he as well as the Corinthians would be resurrected? (II Corinthians 4:14)

19) According to Paul, "the outward man perish" what is renewed day by day? (II Corinthians 4:16)

20) What worked a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory for Paul? (II Corinthians 4:17)

21) Contrast things seen and unseen. (II Corinthians 4:18)

22) Which does Paul give the more consideration, things seen or unseen? (II Corinthians 4:18)

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

2) Why does Paul not "lose heart"? (1)

3) In renouncing the hidden things of shame, what two things does Paul not do? (2)

4) To whom is the gospel "veiled"? Who has blinded them? (3-4)

5) Who does Paul preach? How does he view himself? (5)

6) How is the "light" that God has commanded to be shone in his heart described? (6, cf. 4b)

- 7) How does Paul describe the gospel, and himself in comparison? (7)
- 8) What four examples does Paul use to describe how God's power had worked in him? (8-9)
- 9) Why was Paul and others allowed to suffer for Christ? (10-11)
- 10) Who benefited by the things Paul suffered? (12,15)
- 11) Why did Paul not "lose heart" when his outward man was perishing? (16)
- 12) In what two ways does Paul contrast his affliction and the glory to come? (17)
- 13) Upon what does Paul keep his focus? (16)