

2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 4 The Light of Christ's Gospel; Cast Down But Unconquered; Seeing the Invisible

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

<u>2 COR. Chapter 4 - The Light of Christ's Gospel; Cast Down But Unconquered; Seeing the Invisible</u>	Chapter Four Courage for the Conflict 2 Corinthians 4:1-5:8 The key theme of this section is repeated in <i>1Co_4:1</i> and <i>1Co_4:16</i> : “We do not lose heart!” There were certainly plenty of reasons for discouragement in Paul's situation, yet the great apostle did not quit. What was it that kept him from fainting in the conflicts of life? He knew what he possessed in Jesus Christ! Instead of complaining about what he did not have, Paul rejoiced in what he did have; and you and I can do the same thing.	
--	---	--

2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 4 The Light of Christ's Gospel; Cast Down But Unconquered; Seeing the Invisible

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

2 COR. Chapter 4 - The Light of Christ's Gospel -

2Co 4:1 *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart* (faint hearted coward).

2Co 4:2 *But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness* (cunning readiness to only achieve ends) *nor handling the word of God deceitfully* (to dilute or adulterate), *but by manifestation of the truth* (truth, openly revealed) *commending ourselves to every man's conscience* (full of integrity) *in the sight of God.*

2Co 4:3 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,*

2Co 4:4 *whose minds the god of this age* (this title used only here in NT) *has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

2Co 4:5 *For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.*

2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

1— Paul **preached his gospel boldly**. When Paul considered the greatness of his calling, it gave him the heart to face all his difficulties. We often lose heart (the idea of not only a lack of courage but of bad behavior and evil conduct) because we do not consider how great a calling God has given us in Jesus. *As we have received mercy*: Paul **preached his gospel humbly**. He knew his glorious calling to ministry was not due to his own works, it was as we have received mercy. Mercy, but its very nature, is undeserved.

2— Paul **didn't preach a concealed gospel** (*renouncing the hidden things of shame*), or a **corrupted gospel** (*craftiness . . . deceitfully*), mixing the message with human ingenuity or watered down accommodation to his audience. Paul **preached an honest gospel**.

Paul insisted he would never do, handling the word of God deceitfully. *In the sight of God*: Paul preached his gospel **before God**. It was important to Paul to know *every man's conscience* would approve his manner of ministry, but it was **far more important to know that what he did was right in the sight of God**.

3— . . . , *it is veiled to those who are perishing*: If people do not respond to this glorious gospel, it isn't Paul's fault, or his gospel's fault. Only those who are perishing miss the message.

4— *.. has blinded*: Those who are perishing and for whom the gospel is veiled have been blinded by Satan, the god of this age. It is **the minds of the unbelieving which have been blinded, Satan also working** on the heart and the emotions of the lost, but his main battleground is the mind. *Who do not believe*: Satan can only blind those who do not believe. **Put your trust on who Jesus is and what He has done for you! Then Satan can't blind you anymore! Lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ . . . should shine on them: To see this glory is to be saved.**

5— Paul didn't climb into the pulpit, or stand before an audience, to preach himself. He wasn't important. He wasn't the focus. Jesus was! Paul also did not preach a gospel of moral reform, or a list of rules you must follow to be right with God. He preached Jesus! *...servants for Jesus' sake*: When Paul would present himself, this is how he did it. Not as a lord, not as a master, but simply as your servants for Jesus' sake.

6— The Lord God who created light in the physical world can fill your heart with spiritual light, even if you are blinded by the god of this age. **God's work of light is greater!** *...light of the knowledge of the glory of God*: It is the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. *...face of Jesus Christ*: We come to the knowledge of the glory of God by seeing it in the face of Jesus. God has given us a display, a picture, a representation of His glory: His Son, Jesus Christ.

1— By God's mercy, we walk in integrity," says Paul. "We're not using deceitful means to do something in the name of ministry." This is where Saul made such a mistake and where David did so well. Saul used the things of God to glorify himself, while David used his life to glorify God.

v. 2— Thinking of twisting the scriptures to make them say what we want should terrify us! It is God's Word. We must and want to use it honestly.

vs. 3-4 -- We should ask God to shine His light, to bind the blinding of Satan, and to give faith to overcome the unbelief that invites the blinding.

Vs. 5-6 — The awesome fact that Paul had received this ministry from Christ kept him from being a quitter and a deceiver; but it also kept him from being a self-promoter. *"We do not preach ourselves!"* The Judaizers enjoyed preaching about themselves and glorying in their achievements. They were not servants who tried to help people; they were dictators who exploited people. Paul was certainly a man who practiced genuine humility. He did not trust in himself or commend himself or preach himself. He sought only to lead people to Jesus Christ and to build them up in the faith. We proclaim the author of this glorious Gospel as Christ, the same as hammashiach, the **Messiah, the Anointed One; We proclaim him as Jesus יהושע Yehoshua, the Savior and Deliverer**, who saves men from their sins. We **proclaim Jesus of Nazareth to be the long-expected Messiah**; and that there will be none other. **And farther we proclaim this Jesus the Messiah to be the Lord, ὁ Κυριος, the great Ruler who has all power in heaven and earth; who made and governs the world; and who can save to the uttermost all that come to God through Him.**

2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 4 The Light of Christ's Gospel; Cast Down But Unconquered; Seeing the Invisible

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Cast Down But Unconquered;

2Co 4:7 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power (the exceeding great power) may be of God and not of us. the exceeding great power.*

2Co 4:8 *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*
2Co 4:9 *persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—*

2Co 4:10 *always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

2Co 4:11 *For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

2Co 4:12 *So then death is working in us, but life in*

7— The treasure is the greatness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the glory of God made evident through that gospel. It is the very light of God, and the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, reflected in the face of Jesus Christ. This is the greatest treasure in all of creation! *earthen vessels*: Paul isn't disparaging the body or considering it merely a receptacle for the soul. Instead, he is simply comparing the “value” of God's light and glory and the “value” what He has chosen to put His light and glory into. It isn't hard to be amazed that God has put such a great treasure into clay pots! *power may be of God and not of us*: God puts such a great treasure in such weak vessels so that the greatness of the power may be of God and not of us. Earthen vessels are risky, but can bring profound glory to God.

8-9— *We are hard pressed*: This has the idea of “hunted.” Paul was a wanted, hunted man because of what he was for Jesus. In Act_23:12, forty men conspired together to not eat or drink until they had murdered Paul. He knew what it was like to be hunted! *Yet not crushed*: Living as a wanted, hunted man means terrible stress, experienced every moment of the day. Yet, Paul was not crushed by this stress. He could still serve the Lord gloriously. Paul describes the experiences in his life: *hard pressed . . . perplexed . . . persecuted . . . struck down*. His life was hard because of his passionate devotion to Jesus Christ and His gospel. But we see the triumph of Jesus in Paul's life: *not crushed . . . not in despair . . . not forsaken . . . not destroyed*. Paul knew the power and victory of Jesus in his life because he was continually in situations where only the power and victory of Jesus could meet his need!

10— *Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested*: Paul, like any Christian, wanted the life of Jesus evident in him. But Paul knew this could only happen if he also carried about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus. There are some aspects of God's great work in our lives that only happen through trials and suffering.

11— *Always delivered to death . . . death is working in us, but life in you*: Paul knew the spiritual riches that he brought to the Corinthian Christians came, in part, through the death-like suffering he endured in ministry. God made Paul more effective in ministry through his suffering.

12. *Death in us, but life in you*: Here is the irony. The Corinthian Christians despised Paul because of his great sufferings, and because of what they thought was their great lives of “victory.” But they did not see that their lives of victory were only made possible because God had made Paul such an effective servant through suffering!

v. 7— Our bodies are in a recoverable form: **they are very frail, and easily marred; but by the skill of the workman they may be easily built up anew, and made like unto His glorious body.** The light and salvation of God in the soul of man is a heavenly treasure in a very mean casket. **God uses clay pots like us so that none of us will glory in ourselves**, but they will glory in Him. He chose us because we aren't exalted. **If we choose to exalt ourselves, He won't use us!**

8 - There are four pairs of expressions taken from the customs of the agonies. 1.. Troubled on every side, yet not distressed. 2. Perplexed, but not in despair. 3. Persecuted, but not forsaken. Cast down, but not destroyed. Three of these pairs belong to the customs of wrestling; the fourth, to that of running in the race.

9-10— The marks of Christ! Paul had scars and stripes all over his body for all the stonings, canings and beating that he received for preaching the gospel, carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus was manifested in his body.

11— G. Campbell Morgan tells the story of a great young preacher who was impressive early on in his ministry. Once he had the young man to speak at his church, and after the sermon Morgan asked his wife, “Wasn't that wonderful?” She quietly replied, “Yes, but it will be more wonderful when he has suffered.” Morgan adds: “Well, he suffered, and it was more powerful.”

12— Paul says, We apostles are in continual danger, and live a dying life; while you who have received this Gospel from us are in no danger.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](#); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Seeing the Invisible

16 – Paul does not lost heart is because though all his suffering takes a toll on the outward man, yet the inward man is being renewed and blessed! Paul states that his death-like trials made for more effective, life giving ministry for the Christians. **Knowing that made him not lose heart in the midst of trials and suffering. He said,** On the outside, we are suffering and taking a beating. But on the inside, God is blessing and renewing us!”

2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 4 The Light of Christ's Gospel; Cast Down But Unconquered; Seeing the Invisible

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight (Chabad- heavy and glorious) of glory,

2Co 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

17 – *Our light affliction:* When Paul writes “our light affliction,” we might wonder if he had ever known any “real” trials. Paul isn’t writing as a kindergartner in the school of suffering. Paul has an advanced graduate degree! He describes some of these sufferings in **2Cor.11:23-28** : stripes . . . prisons . . . beaten . . . stoned . . . shipwrecked . . . perils of waters . . . robbers . . . in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

And those are just the physical, outward sufferings! What about the spiritual burdens he bore, and spiritual attacks he faced? The Scriptures are clear: if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together (*Rom_8:17*). Glory is tied to suffering, and God will accomplish in us a glory far heavier than any affliction we have suffered here.

Weight of glory: Do we appreciate the weight of glory? It is an eternal weight. Often, the problem isn’t so much about what we think about our light affliction, but that we think so little of our coming weight of glory.

18 – In the world’s eyes, Paul’s life was an incredible failure. At the height of a career that would reach much higher, he left it all for a life of hardship, suffering and persecution, with eventual martyrdom. But Paul recognized that the world only sees the outward, not the unseen eternal things. When we look at the things which are seen, all we see is our light affliction, and it doesn’t look very light then! But when we look at the things which are not seen, then we see and appreciate the eternal weight of glory.

17 – Why is our affliction light, and not heavy? Because even the worst of it, by the measure of eternity, is but for a moment. This is partially true in the sense that most of our troubles come and go, and “this too shall pass.” But it is also true in the sense that even a long life by this world’s standard is nothing on the scale of eternity. Even if one were to live for a hundred years and suffer every day of their lives, by the measure of eternity, it is but for a moment. Also, our affliction is light, and not heavy because of what God is accomplishing in us through our affliction: a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Put all your afflictions on one side of the scale, and even put your thumb down on that side. Then let me place the weight of glory on the other side of the scale, and you will see what a light affliction you really have.”

18 – Not all afflictions automatically produce glory. It is possible to allow suffering to destroy us, and to let affliction make us bitter, miserable, and self-focused. But if we will look to the things which are not seen, then our affliction will work in us an eternal weight of glory.

2 CORINTHIANS Chapter 4 The Light of Christ's Gospel; Cast Down But Unconquered; Seeing the Invisible

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.