

2 Corinthians – Chapter 4



Author: Paul

Date: 55 A.D.

Purpose: for the Corinthians to rebuild trust in Paul as God's Apostle

Theme: Strength in weakness

Let It Shine!

Read 4:1-6

- † What “ministry” is mentioned in verse 1?
 - See 2 Corinthians 3:8-9; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33-34
- † Why is Paul stating that he renounces evil, underhanded ways? (vs 2)
- † Who is the “god of this age”? (vs 4)
- † In what ways are people’s minds blinded, or veiled? (vs 3-4)
- † How does a person see the glory of Christ? (vs 4)
- † Verse 6 is used on the Sunday of the Transfiguration of Christ. Why?

Treasure in Jars of Clay

Read 4:7-12

- † What treasure do we have, and how do we get it? (vs 7)
- † What image comes to mind with a clay jar versus wood or metal?
- † “Afflicted” means pressure from outside troubles. What are these? (vs 8)
- † When have you been “at a loss”? (vs 8)
- † Where else in the Bible do we read the word, “forsaken”? (vs 9)
 - See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34
- † Why and how do we carry the death of Jesus with us? (vs 10)
- † Which passage reminds us that we will always face persecution? (vs 11)
 - See Romans 8:36
- † Who is Paul referring to as “us” in verse 12?

Compelled to Speak

Read 4:13-15

- † Even though we face trial and tribulation all the time, what still comes out of us when we have faith?
 - See Psalm 116; 2 Corinthians 3:4, 12; 4:1

- † As God brings us through these trials (even if we are not healed in earthly ways) what is our strength? (vs 14)
 - See 2 Corinthians 1:9-10
- † What is the result of all this ministry? (vs 15)

Why We Keep Going

Read 4:16-18

- † How can we be closer to death each day but still being renewed? (vs 16)
 - See Isaiah 40:31; Colossians 3:10; Titus 3:5
- † What kind of comparison is made between our current suffering and trials and our eternal glory? (vs 17)
 - See Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 1:6
- † Is verse 18 telling us to reject the material world?
 - Hebrews 11:1, 13; Romans 8:24