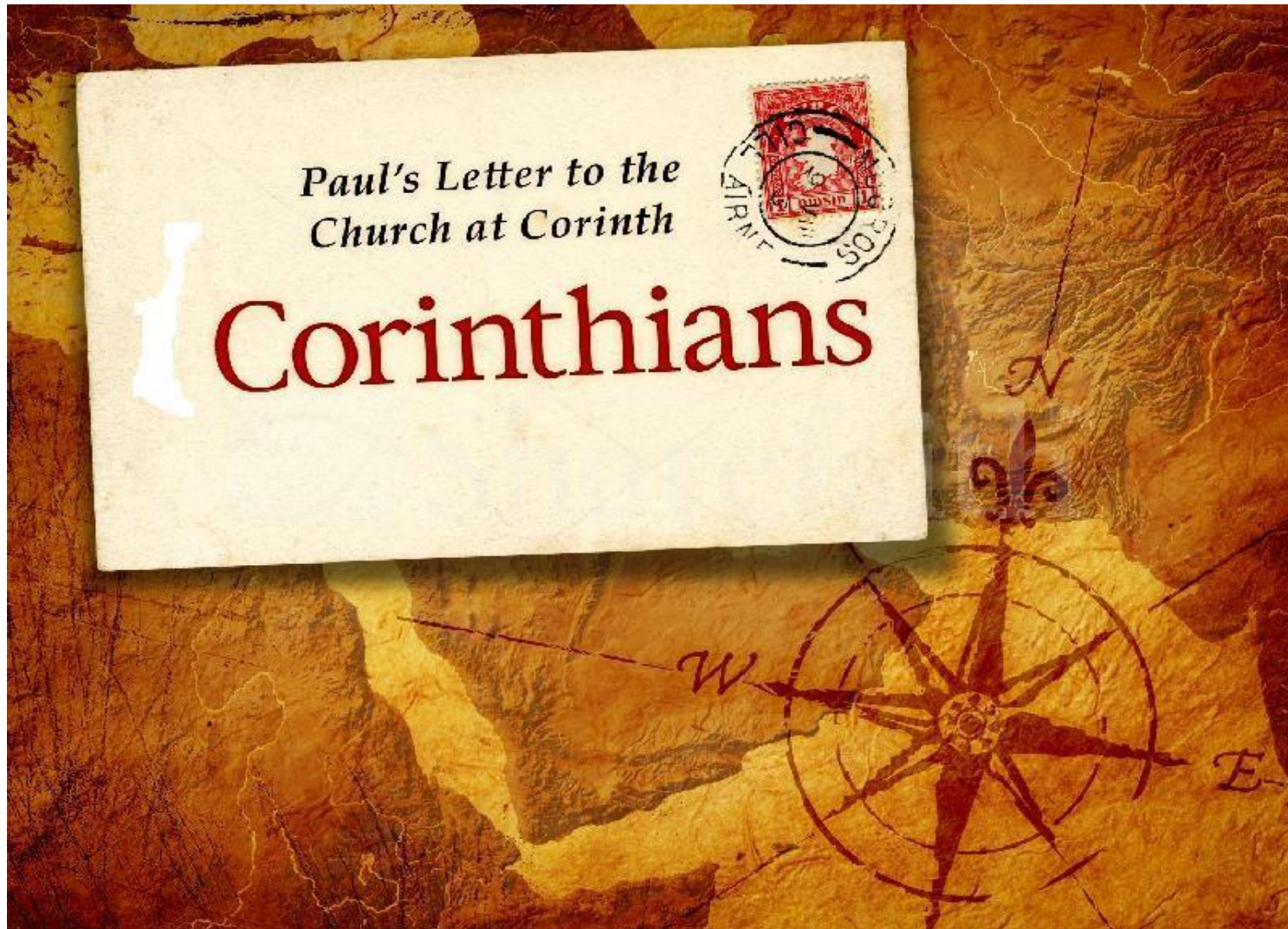


2 Cor 4:1-4 The Glorious Gospel and Those Who Are Blinded



Outline Chp 4:1- 15



Christ's life & ministry:

the glorious gospel and those who are blinded v1-4

Christ's life & ministry:

the glorious person of the gospel v5-7

God ordains:

trials & suffering to reveal His glory part 1 v8-11

God ordains:

trials & suffering to reveal His glory part 2 v12-15

* adapted from Hal Molloy

Today's Verses



- 1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,
- 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man'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 whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

therefore - *dia touto* - because of this
since we have this ministry or

having *the* ministry *as this one is*

Merryman

- Previous verses about this ministry are as follows:
- 2 Cor 3:8 how will “the ministry” of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?
- 2 Cor 3:9b much more does “the ministry” of righteousness abound in glory
- 2 Cor 3:12b we use great boldness in “our speech,”
^{13a} and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face ---
- 2 Cor 3:18a but we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror [Word of God] the glory of the Lord

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,



as we received mercy – modifies having this ministry

- 2 Cor 3:6a who also made us adequate as servants [ministers] of a new covenant
- The focus of the new covenant is that Christ would shed His blood for the sins of world and the Father would raise Him up again – the gospel message.
- by the mercy of God [granting us favor, benefits, opportunities, and especially salvation] Amplified

we do not lose heart [faint] – main idea !!

- The glorious nature of the ministry of the gospel is what upholds and sustains the true minister of the gospel [even if he receives a negative reaction to the gospel].

² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God



but – continuing narrative of verse 1

we – Paul and his team [all who minister]

have renounced or rejected [past point fact, middle voice]

- for ourselves or for our own benefit [or good]
- carry with it the thought of forbidding the approach of the things disowned

the things hidden because of shame

- disgraceful ways [secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame] Amplified
- This is talking about the public preaching of the gospel.

² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.



They are now renouncing two disgraceful ways:

1st - not walking in craftiness

craftiness - *panourgia* - shrewdness, cunning; the word signified the employment of any or all means necessary to realize an end

- present tense – no longer walk this way
- Eph 4:14 --- we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.

² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.



2nd - [not] **adulterating the word of God**

adulterating - *doloō* - to ensnare; hence, to corrupt, especially by mingling the truths of the Word of God with false doctrines or notions

- mixing human traditions with the pure word of the gospel
- but *dolóō* never extends to *kapēleúō* [peddling] which, in addition to adulterating, has the notion of unjust --- gain or profit
- They are renouncing by not adulterating God's Word.

Zodhiates

McCalley

² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.



Will renounce by presenting ourselves to man's conscience

but - *alla* - in strong contrast

3rd - commending ourselves

commending - *sunístēmi* - of persons: to introduce, present to one's acquaintance for favorable notice

- 2 Cor 3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? ² You are our letter
- 2 Cor 10:18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.



to every man's conscience in the sight of God

conscience - *syneidēsis* - that process of thought which distinguishes what it considers morally good or bad, commending the good, condemning the bad

- in the sight *and* presence of God - Amplified
- as if God were physically present

by the manifestation of truth

manifestation - a making visible or observable from

by means of an open declaration of the truth Wuest

- Commending ourselves by means of a clear manifestation of the truth.

The Veil and the Old Covenant



¹³ and *are* not like Moses, *who* used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

¹⁴ But their “minds” were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant* the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

¹⁵ But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart;

¹⁶ but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

* The Law given to Moses

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,



Now Paul returns to the idea of a veil!

And even if our gospel is veiled

if or if as is the case – assumed to be true

is - *eimi* – continuously exists in a veiled state

veiled - *kalyptō* - to cover, conceal, so that no trace of it can be seen (perfect, passive)

- It was veiled in the past and continues to be veiled into the present.
- This is a general statement about the gospel in this present evil age.
- Gal 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might “rescue us” from this present evil age

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

Now who is affected by the gospel being veiled!

it [our gospel] is veiled to those who are perishing

lit: the one perishing

perishing - *apollymi* - those who are to suffer eternal death

- present tense – in the process of perishing
- Perishing describes the destiny of the unbeliever.*
- It is not that he will perish; it is that he is perishing.*
- All men are born perishing. Merryman
- 1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.
- These people are to be snatched out of “the ones perishing.” Merryman

* McCalley 13



⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



Now we have the cause of this veiled condition!

in whose case – this is speaking about those who are perishing

the god of this world [lit: age]

Who is the god of this world?

- Matt 4:8 Again, the devil --- showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory ⁹ --- All these things “I will give” You.
- John 12:31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- John 16:11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



has blinded - *typhloō* - to blind, from a root *tuph* - to burn, to smoke (past point fact)

- The blinding is like a smoke screen.
- It is hiding the glory of the gospel.

the minds of the unbelieving

minds - *noēma* – the thoughts or the understanding

- An unbeliever's thoughts are confused as to the glory of Christ. *
- They can't sort out the glory of the gospel of Christ. *
- 2 Cor 3:14 But their minds [Israel] were hardened.

* Merryman

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



so that – now the purpose will follow!

they [the unbelieving] might not see

- they should not discern Darby
- The purpose of the god of the this age [Satan] is to prevent the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ from shining on the unbelieving.

the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ

- The glory of the gospel needs no human embellishment*
- The gospel of the glory of Christ cannot be dimmed.*
- This glory is always shining forth. * Merryman
- The unbeliever's thoughts or his understanding is the target for blinding.

More on the “glory of Christ”*



- The glory of Christ describes the gospel.
- The glory of Christ is revealed in the gospel.
- It shows that He loved us, died for us, and rose again for us.
- The glory of Christ also gives us a test of “the gospel” message.
- How do you know when you have heard “the gospel”?
- You know you have heard “the gospel” when man has been total excluded.
- Man’s only part is “our sins” that Christ died for.
- The gospel is an objective message about Christ.
- Our part is to believe: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. [1 Cor 15:3b-4]

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



who is the image of God

- Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- Heb 1:3a And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.
- John 14:9 --- Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Summary: the gospel and man's blindness



The How:

The
gospel
is veiled

It is
veiled
to
the
perishing

The god
of this
world
has
blinded

Summary: the gospel and man's blindness



The Who:

The
minds
of the
unbelieving

The Reason:

That
the
unbelieving
might
not discern

The light
of the
gospel
of the
glory
of Christ



But these restrictions [of 2 Cor. 4:3-4] can be overcome by the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit.

With this in view, the Spirit reproves, or enlightens, the world with respect to the cardinal features of the gospel, namely, "sin, righteousness, and judgment" (John 16:7-11).

The Scriptures are evidently the primary agency which is used by the Spirit to this end, for "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17).