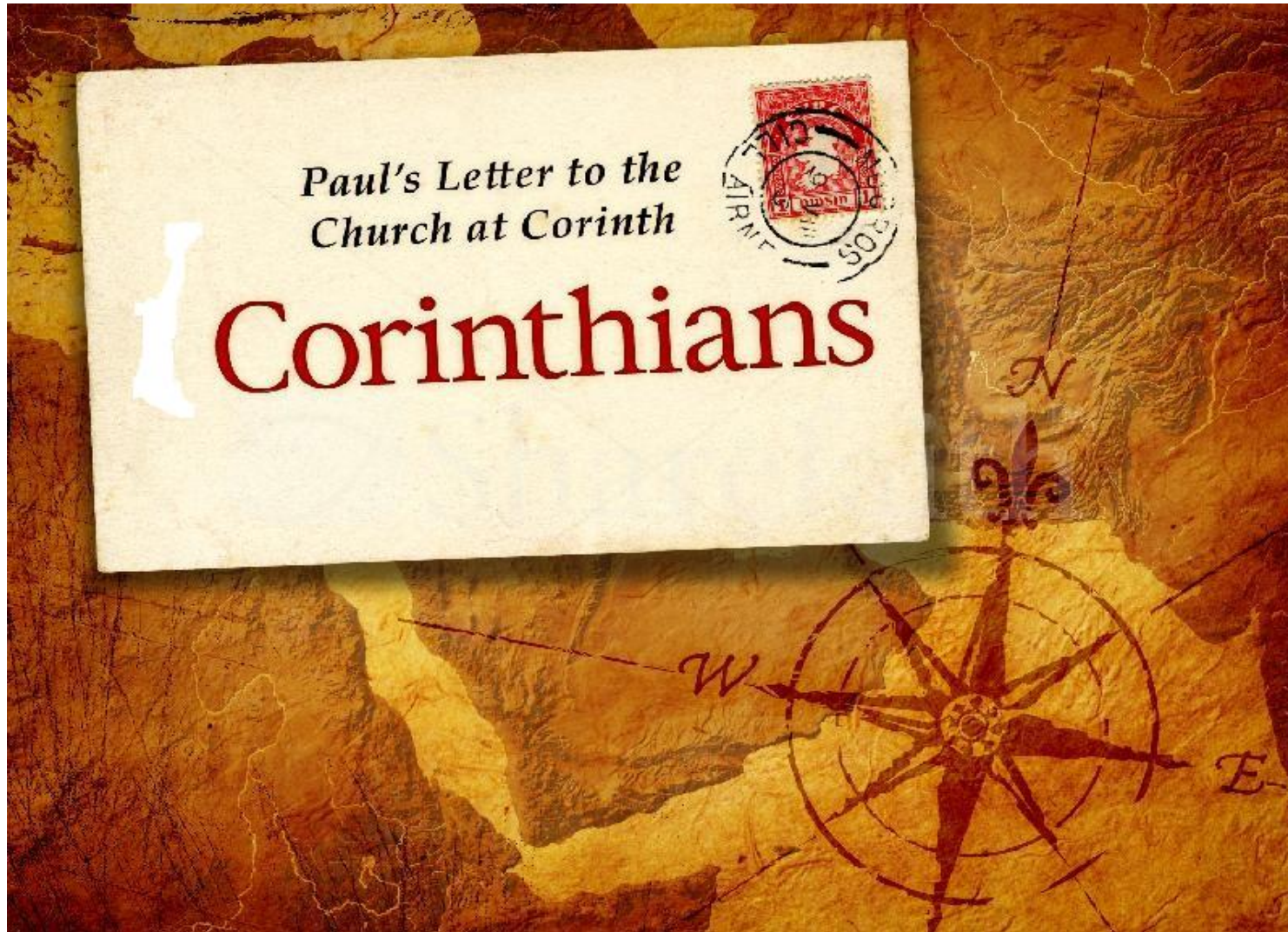


2 Cor 4:5-7 The Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God



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

Review of the gospel and man's blindness



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

The
gospel
is veiled
[perfect
tense]

It is
veiled
to
the
perishing

- It is not that they will perish; it is that he is perishing.
- 1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.

Review of the gospel and man's blindness



4a in whose case the god of this world has blinded the mind of the unbelieving,

The god
of this
world
[Satan]
has
blinded*

*like a
smoke
screen

The
minds
of the
unbelieving

minds - 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.

Merryman

Review of the gospel and man's blindness



^{4b} so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

That
they
unbelieving
might
not discern
or see

- The purpose of the god of this age [Satan] is to prevent the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ from shining on the unbelieving.
- 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.
- The unbeliever's thoughts or his understanding is the target for blinding.

Merryman

Review of the gospel and man's blindness



^{4b} so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The light
of the
gospel
of 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.*
- Man's only part is "our sins" that Christ died for.*
- The gospel is an objective message about Christ: [to be believed] *
- 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

Last Week's Final Thoughts *



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).

Today's Verses



⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.



for - *gar* - in the sense of because and so forth

we do not preach ourselves

we – Paul and his team [all who minister]

preach - *kēryssō* - to be a herald or in general to proclaim
(present tense)

[not] ourselves

- 1 Thess 2:6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.
- Phil 3:8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.



but – *alla* – strong contrast

[we preach] **Christ Jesus as Lord**

- “Christ Jesus Lord” is the object of what they preach.
- “Lord” identifies who Christ Jesus is.
- When no definite article it is speaking of the character of a thing or in God’s case His essence. McCalley
- The implication here is that lordship equates with deity.
Constable
- In context, it is that some men preach themselves!
Merryman
- Ministers need to be careful not to present themselves as the focus - it must be Christ.
Merryman

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.



and ourselves as your [Corinthians] bond-servants

bond-servants - *doulos* - metaphorically spoken of voluntary service, a servant, implying obedience, devotion

- Titus 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ
- Rom 1:1a Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus,
- What humbler view of himself could a messenger of the gospel take than to regard himself not only as a bondservant of Jesus Christ but even as the bondservant of those to whom he ministers? Constable

for Jesus' sake or because of Jesus – this is why we are bond-servants!

⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



For or because

God, who said or God is the One having spoken Interlinear

- In creation God spoke and it happened – true then and now when a person believes.

"Light shall shine out of darkness," - 1st in creation

- Gen 1:2a The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, ---
- ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light
- God's command affects all of creation [universal].*
- The only light [physical] was God's light.
- The light was generated by His word.
- The light dispelled darkness [physical]. * McCalley

⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



[God] **is the One**

who has shone in our hearts - 2nd in man's salvation

has shone - *lampō* - to shine, give light metaphorically
[past point fact, for every believer]

our heart - *kardia* – man's entire mental and moral being

many parallels come to mind [for a believer]:*

- The only true light I know is God's light.
- The physical light of Genesis was by His Word.
- We are born again by His Word.
- His Word in my heart dispels spiritual darkness.
- God's Word at work in creation in contrast to God's Word personally in my heart.

* McCalley

⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



for an illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God

Interlinear

for - *pros* – to give or resulting in

an illumination - *phōtismós* - light, a bringing to light -
an illumination from the Lord Himself

- resulting in an illumination being given of the knowledge of the glory of God Wuest
- “for an illumination” tells us why God’s word has shone in our hearts and following that is the content

of the knowledge of the glory of God

knowledge - *gnosis* - a seeking to know, an enquiry,
investigation with respect to the glory of God



The glory of God or His essence*

- The sum total of His infinite attributes
- Holy
 - Righteous
 - Just
- Infinite
 - Omnipotent
 - Omniscient
 - Omnipresent
- Self Existent [Eternal]
- Love
 - Grace
 - Mercy
- Immutable
 - Faithful
 - Truth
- Spirit
- Sovereign

* Molloy

Ex 33:18-19a Then Moses said, "I pray You [LORD], show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you.



⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



in the face of Christ

- Compare the glory of Moses' face with the glory of Christ's face.*
- Moses' glory was: fading, temporal, external, passing.*
- Christ's glory is: intrinsic, within, growing, emanating.*
- As a believer you have the very life of Christ [the Light]
You only need to grow in grace and knowledge of Him.
- The purpose of God is to give men light.*
- The purpose of Satan is keep men in darkness.*

* Merryman

Compare verse 4 with 6



the light
of the gospel
of the
glory of Christ

the light
of the knowledge
of the
glory of God

- The unbeliever needs the light of the gospel which comes from the glory of Christ.
- The believer needs the light of the knowledge [to grow in grace] which comes from the glory of God.



⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

But we have [present tense]

- Paul now gives us a contrast between the greatness of the treasure and the frailness of vessels.

this treasure in earthen vessels

So what is the treasure?*

- “the glory of Christ”
- it radiates in our hearts
- it illuminates the hearts of men
- the value of the vessel is dependent upon its content
- we have the most prized and valuable content

* Molloy

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.



earthen vessels or [frail, human] vessels of earth Amplified

earthen - *ostrakinos* - made of earthenware or clay

- The pottery lamps which could be bought for a copper or two in the Corinthian market-place provided a sufficient analogy.
- A [clay] vessel's worth comes from what it holds, not from what it is.
- It is precisely the Christian's utter frailty which lays him open to the experience of the all-sufficiency of God's grace.

Constable

so that – with a purpose that

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.



the surpassing greatness of the power

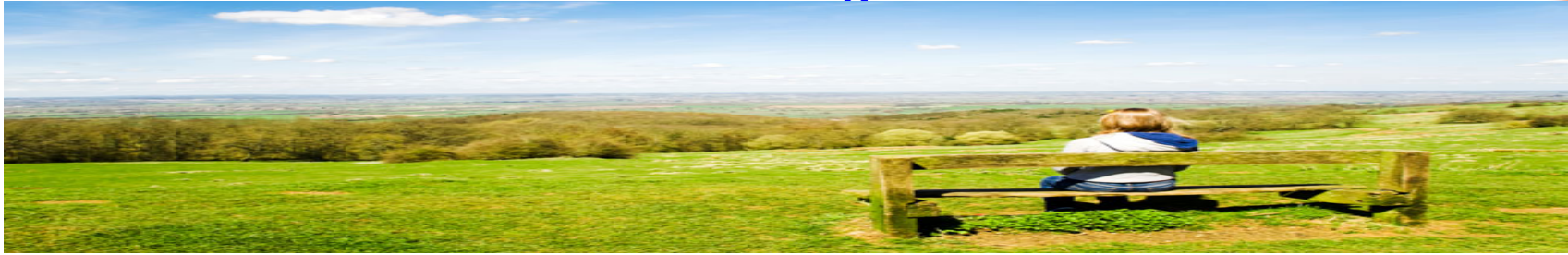
surpassing greatness - *hyperbole* - a throwing
beyond, exceeding greatness

will be - *eimi* – will continuously exist

of God and not from [ek] ourselves

- be from God as a source and not from us Wuest
- God's power surpasses our weakness
- this contrast exalts God

Final Thoughts *



He [Paul] was contrasting the relative insignificance and unattractiveness of the light-bearers with the surpassing worth and beauty of the Light (i.e., God's glory) itself.

It is precisely the Christian's utter frailty which lays him open to the experience of the all-sufficiency of God's grace, so that he is able even to rejoice because of his weakness (2 Cor. 12:9f.) - something that astonishes and baffles the world, which thinks only in terms of human ability.