

2 Corinthians

Lesson #8, Chapter 4:1-6

Read Chapter 4 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord for insights into His powerful Word.

1. Since verse 1 begins with “therefore,” we know that we need to search the preceding verses to find out what Paul is elaborating on. How does chapter 4:1 connect to the previous verses in chapter 3?

2. What comparison is Paul making in verse 1? What is the point of the comparison?

3. In what ways might Paul lose heart in the ministry? For examples see 2:15-16; 4:3-4, 8-10, 16.

4. What characteristics do you notice about Paul’s ministry (verses 1-5)?

5. Define *renounced* (Strong’s #550).
 - a. Define *manifest* [ESV *open statement*; NIV *setting forth plainly* (Strong’s #5321)].

 - b. Define *adulterating* [ESV *tamper with*; NKJV *handle deceitfully*; NIV *distort* (Strong’s #1389)].

6. Why doesn't Paul lose heart in the ministry? See 2:14; 3:5; 4:1, 16, 18.

7. What principle(s) can you glean from Paul to help you not lose heart in this endurance race called the Christian life?

8. Why did Paul renounce the hidden things (verse 2)?

9. Please explain what it means to not walk in craftiness, not adulterate the word of God, *and* to commend yourself to every man's conscience.

10. Two other characteristics of Paul's ministry are found in verse 5. What principles of evangelism and life/ministry can you glean from Paul's example?

11. Who is the god of this world (verses 3-4)? See Jn. 12:31; Eph. 2:2; 6:11-12; 1 Jn. 5:19.

12. What has the god of this world done to the unbelieving and for what purpose?

13. Note the contrast between Satan and God in verses 4 and 6. What does God do for the believer and for what purpose?

14. What is the significance of the quote in verse 6? See also Is. 9:2-7; 49:6 and Matt. 4:14-17. Why is it inserted there?

15. Look at verse 6. What does the light do in our hearts?

16. Every passage has a path, which is the point the writer wants to make. What is the path Paul has been leading us on from Chapter 1 to our present position here at 4:6?

17. If you didn't mention it in your answer above, please discuss the work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry and the life of a believer.

18. Verse 6 says that God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. How has your knowledge of the glory of God grown?

We glorify God, when we are God-admirers; admire His attributes, which are the glistening beams by which the divine nature shines forth; His promises which are the charter of free grace, and the spiritual cabinet where the pearl of price is hid; the noble effects of His power and wisdom in making the world which is called "the work of His fingers" (Ps. 8:3). To glorify God is to have God-admiring thoughts; to esteem Him most excellent, and search for diamonds in this rock only.

—Thomas Watson