

upon his differentiation of the Old Covenant from the New in 2 Corinthians 3, Paul now speaks of the ramifications of living in the paradigm of the New Covenant. While he's already mentioned freedom, boldness, and hope in chapter 4, he looks more upon the way we are NOT to live, modeling holiness instead of sin, to show Christ to those we encounter.

## 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

### The Light of the the Gospel

#### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Light serves a number of purposes in life. It causes plants to grow and bear fruit, it gives direction to the day, and accounts for seasons. It also illuminates our way and shows us where we can safely walk, not to mention where we should *not*. The imagery of light, in a spiritual context, also helps to give a clearer understanding to a number of lessons found God's Word.

#### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**CAN** you recall a time when the Gospel was "veiled" from your understanding or belief?

**WHAT** are some strategies you've seen Satan use to veil or blind people from understanding God's truth?

**HOW** has God shed light on His truth in your own spiritual journey?

**HOW** has the light of the gospel and the knowledge of God given you hope in the face of various kinds of adversity?

# 2 Corinthians

## 4:1-6

### The Light of the Gospel

## Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

### OBSERVATION

What do we have, according to vs. 1?

What are the results of what's been given to us in vs.1 (vs. 2)?

How is the gospel veiled and to whom (vs. 3)?

According to vs. 4, who has blinded the minds of unbelievers and for what purpose?

What does Paul say he proclaims? What does he NOT proclaim (vs. 5)?

In vs. 5, what role do Paul and those with him serve and for whose sake?

What does Paul quote God as saying in vs. 6?

Where does God shine now, for what reason, and in whose face?

### INTERPRETATION

What is the ministry Paul mentions us having in vs. 1? See 3:6.

What does it mean to "lose heart" and why don't we, having the ministry mentioned in the previous question? Consider 4:8-10 for insight.

What does it mean to "renounce" the things Paul mentions in vs. 2?

Who is the god of this world and what is his mission? See John 10:10.

What is the significance of the "light of the gospel" mentioned in vs. 4 and 6? Consider John 1:9-10, 3:19-20, and 8:12.

What point does Paul make clear about the identity of Jesus in vs. 4 and again at the end of vs. 6? Why is this reality so critical in understanding our position before God and others? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:21 as well as Philippians 2:3-8.

Because of what is true in vs. 1, what imperative (or command) are we given in vs. 1? What are we reminded to now go and do in vs. 2, and what is inferred in vs. 6?

### APPLICATION

What would it look like to not lose heart this week because of what's true from this passage? What is one thing you need to renounce or refuse because of the ministry God's given you? How can you let His light shine from your heart, so others might see and know the glory of God, in the face of Christ?