

2 Corinthians 4:1-18 **Gospel Message Manifests the Power of God**

Walking not in deceit, but truth – Strengthened by the mercy of God

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Gospel is veiled to those who are perishing – Blinded by god of this age

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

We preach Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Treasure in earthen vessels – The Power is of God

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-- ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then death is working in us, but life in you.

We have the same Spirit of Faith

¹³ And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. ¹⁵ For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Things seen are temporary – Things not seen are Eternal

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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Facts Revealed:

Walking not in deceit, but in truth – Strengthened by the mercy of God [2 Corinthians 4:1-2]

- ✦ We are not discouraged, God has given us this ministry and His mercy to strengthen us.
- ✧ Our choice is to renounce the hidden things of shame, craftiness and deceit in handling the Word of God.
- ✧ We have chosen to work by manifestation of the truth in the sight of God.
- ✧ Every man among us has commended his conscience to be clear in the sight God.

Gospel is veiled to those who are perishing – Blinded by god of this age [2 Corinthians 4:3-4]

- ✚ If the Gospel message is veiled, it is only veiled to those who are perishing.
- ✧ The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe.
- ✧ He has blinded them to prevent the light of the Gospel of the Glory of Christ, Who is the image of God, from shining on them.

We preach Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake [2 Corinthians 4:5-6]

- ✚ We are not attempting to promote ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.
- ✧ We are simply your bondservants for the sake of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ God commanded light to shine out of darkness.
- ✧ It was God Who shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Treasure in earthen vessels – The Power is of God [2 Corinthians 4:7-12]

- ✚ We have this treasure in earthen vessels.
- ✚ The excellence of the power is of God, not of us.
- ✧ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-- always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
- ✧ We are continually under the threat of death for the sake of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ Our expectation is that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal bodies.
- ✧ We are under the threat of death, that you may have the hope of life through Christ.

We have the same Spirit of Faith [2 Corinthians 4:13-15]

- ✚ We have the same spirit of faith, as it is written:
"I believed and therefore I spoke." [Psalm 116:10]
- ✧ We also believe and therefore we speak, knowing that God Who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.
- ✧ All things we preach and all things we suffer are for your sakes.
- ✧ The goal is that the grace spread through many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Things seen are temporary – Things not seen are Eternal [2 Corinthians 4:16-18]

- ✚ Though our outward man is perishing, we do not loose heart, knowing that our inward man is being renewed day by day.
- ✧ Our temporary affliction is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
- ✧ We do not look at the things that are seen, but at the things which are not seen.
- ✧ Things that are seen are temporary.
- ✧ Things that are not seen are Eternal.