

2 Corinthians 4

Paul's Apostolic Ministry

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. 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; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you.

13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak, 14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character

Paul's observations and insights

1. How grateful are you to God for receiving His mercy of salvation?
2. What is it to lose your heart in something?
3. As Christians we are always on mission!
4. 'To announce' is to declare and bring closure.
5. 'The hidden things', are anything still lurking in the darkness of your soul.
6. How do we adulterate the word of God?
7. Manifestation is the active expression of something and in this case, it is Gods truth.
8. Our conscience is what Proverbs calls 'the candle of the Lord', that's the light in us.
9. The concept of, 'before God', is to aspire to His righteousness and glory.
10. 'To be veiled', is to be unable to see because of sinfulness.
11. 'To perish' is to no longer be fit for purpose.
12. The God of this world is evil and so are all of his companions.
13. 'Blind of mind', is when you are unable to reason truth without being affected by biases, prejudice and self-opinion.
14. To 'lean on your own understanding', is to trust in yourself.
15. Light, is hope in Gods provision of salvation, found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
16. The 'glory of Christ', is all those who have put their trust in God's provision for salvation.
17. Jesus Christ is the same substance as God but in human form.
18. 'The measure of hope', is trust in Christ Jesus as saviour Messiah
19. To be 'a bondservant' is a free choice, to choose to connect to Christ for a lifetime
20. Jesus is the light God sent to save, to shine in the darkness of this fallen world.
21. For that light to shine in our heart, that's in our spirit, we must put our trust solely in the gospel of grace.
22. That light in our spirit is what brings us into God's salvation.
23. The knowledge of His truth revealed is The Word became flesh.
24. 'Earthen vessel' is our physical form - the physiological reality of who we are.
25. Grace is God's power, the power that brings us into His salvation and not by our best efforts.
26. Affliction is contention and attack from anything that is evil.
27. Not crushed is down but not out.
28. Perplexed is confused, but trusting by faith in God's provision of salvation.
29. Persecuted - we are a target for evil - but it's Jesus Christ who takes our affliction upon himself at the cross.
30. Struck down but not destroyed, 'death, oh death, where is your sting?'
31. 'Dying to self', is the journey of sanctification.
32. The life of Jesus Christ being manifested is the reality of a changed nature.
33. Consistently being delivered over to death, is for the purpose of living out your new nature in Christ.
34. Our faith has been invested in the person of Jesus Christ.
35. To believe, is to speak out and send your faith in God's word off to work.

36. Our declaration of faith is that Jesus brings us through death into His life.
37. God will always bring us through death, but only if we are in Jesus.
38. The giving of thanks to God is the act of true worshippers.
39. 'Spirit and truth worshippers', even as Jesus promised the woman at the well.
40. The outer man is our flesh sacrificed.
41. The inner man is our spirit and our soul.
42. The conflict of opposing natures is inevitable, but grace in Jesus will always win.
43. In Jesus we are acceptable to God for all eternity.
44. We are the glory of God that Satan attempted to take with him to hell.
45. Faith is seeing beyond the natural, the external things.