

## II Corinthians - Chapter 4 - Handout #3

### The Glorious Ministry of the New Covenant

The previous chapter speaks of the glory of the new covenant that will not fade away, which is so glorious that it makes the glory of the old covenant, a glory that faded away, seem to have no glory at all. The chapter 4 opens with the word “therefore:”, in light of the glorious ministry that we have mercifully received, we (Paul) faint not.

v.2 (because of what he has received) he renounces dishonesty, craftiness, and handling the word of God deceitfully (as other false apostles have done-this is unspoken, but implied). But he handles the gospel with truth in the sight of God.

v. 3,4 The gospel is hid from those who have been blinded by the God of this world (satan). They understand it, but to them its foolishness. (Christ is the light, who is the very image of God.

v.5-7 We preach Christ v. we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. We are weak and nothing but clay jars which have been entrusted with this glorious message of light—God gets the glory.

This responsibility for this glorious gospel ministry does bring trials.

v.8,9 (The often quoted) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. He goes through trials, yet God’s power holds him up and enables him to continue.

v.11,12 We (Paul) always exposed to the threat of death, that the life of Jesus may show forth in our body for the sake of those to whom he preaches (the Corinthians).

v. 13, 14 I have faith that as Jesus was raised from the dead, I too will be raised as you will be raised.

v. 15 All done for you that more will know God’s love and praise and thank Him.

v. 16 So, as stated in verse 1, “we faint not” , in other words, we don’t lose heart, we don’t give up. We are weak in our flesh, but our spirit man is renewed daily by God’s power.

v. 17. I count my affliction as light compared to the ‘far more exceeding weight of glory.

v. 18. Paul considers more the eternal things not seen than the temporal things seen.

(5:1 For we know that if our earthly housed of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, and house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.)

So Paul (as we can) can go through for the sake of the gospel because of this hope and the power of God which sustains him and carries him through.