

Bible Study Notes
2 Corinthians: Section 12
by Larry Roach
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
God Shining into Our Heart

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Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ is Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

In the previous passage, Paul spoke about the gospel not being veiled from us and in us. In other words, the gospel flows into us and through us and is reflected through our face and to those who observe us. However, in this current passage he speaks about the gospel being veiled or hidden from those who are perishing. These are those who are perishing or who we might call the unsaved, the lost, those in darkness and those who are alienated from God. I think it is important that when we meet someone who cannot see the gospel of Christ, that we soberly realize and face the truth they are lost, unsaved and do not know God.

The reason people cannot see the gospel and understand and believe is because their minds have been blinded by the enemy who is Satan. It is important to recognize that this passage says they "cannot" see the light of the gospel – they are not able. There is a veil covering their eyes.

Obviously we can and should faithfully preach the gospel of Christ. However, if the veil is not removed a person will reject the gospel no matter how eloquently we present it. It is only God who can remove the veil from someone's eyes in order that they may see Christ and turn and be saved. This is not something we can do as much as we might like to. However, we can pray to and plead with the Father to have mercy and remove the veil.

Look specifically how the gospel is described in this passage. It is described as the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. It is the truth, in all of its fullness, about who Jesus Christ is. The next part of this passage says that Christ is the image of God. This is his

glory and the manifestation of who he is. It would be fair to say that when we look into the face of Christ we are looking into the face of the Father. For it is then that Christ is manifesting the Father unto us. **Colossians 1:15a** reminds us, Christ “is the image of the invisible God.”

We know from Jesus’ words that he did not come to reveal himself, but he came to reveal the father. **Matthew 11:27**, Jesus states, “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him, (emphasis added). Do you know the Father?

In the next part of this passage in Corinthians, Paul states that he is not preaching about himself. Paul is not seeking to glorify or promote himself. He is not seeking to promote a personal agenda. This is to be true of us as well. We are only servants of Christ. We only preach Christ in all of his glory as he is revealing the Father. **John 5:19**, “Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’” Let us take such an attitude. **John 14:10**, Jesus said, “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

In conclusion: This is the result of God shining his light into our heart where once there was only darkness. Through this act of God’s grace, this light gives us the revelation of knowledge of the glory of God -- which is revealed in the face of Christ. When we look to Christ, and we gaze or contemplate upon his face, the manifestation of God is revealed to us. As we saw in **chapter 3 verse 18**, “We who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” It is a glory that never ends, thus this transformation will continue for eternity as we become more and more like him -- from glory to glory to glory. And all of this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,” **Romans 8:29a**.

In light of this truth, what would God have you do?