

(2 Corinthians 4:1-6)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

“The Veiled Gospel”

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6 (NKJV)

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. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6 (NKJV)

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. 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.

“The Veiled Gospel”

Obligations To The Message - (4:1-2)



2 Corinthians 4:1 (NKJV)

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◆ Therefore ...

- The preceding contrast between the Law & Gospel - vs 3:12,13
- The Jews were blinded to the transitory nature of the OT - 3:14-16
- The veil on their hearts prevented them from faith in Christ - 3:14-16; cf
- The veil is removed in Christ - 3:14-18; Rom 10:4
- Paul needs no veil; he has nothing to hide. The glory of the Gospel is there! - (Rom 1:16,17; 8:1,2)

“The Veiled Gospel”

Obligations To The Message - (4:1-2)



2 Corinthians 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

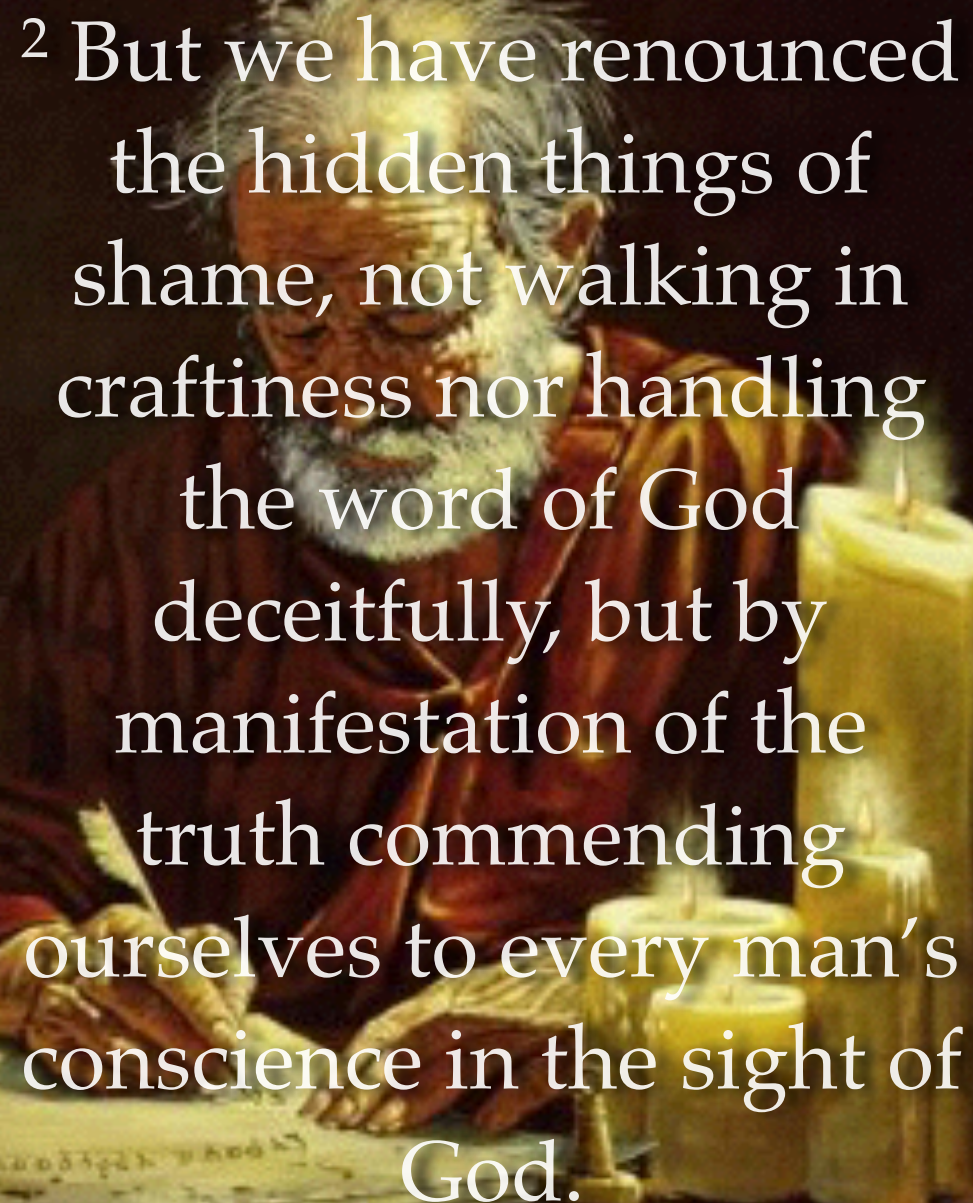
- ◆ A message of mercy & hope -
 - The ministry (*diakonia*, “service”; also used in 5:18; 6:3; 8:4; 9:1, 12–13; 11:8) of the NC was given to Paul in spite of his past (*cf.* 1 Cor. 15:9–10; 1 Tim. 1:13)
 - The salvation Paul found in Christ, (*forgiveness, life, fellowship & hope*), was the impetus to keep him focussed in spite of the many obstacles he faced - (1:8; 7:5; 11:23–29; 4:7–16)

“The Veiled Gospel”

Obligations To The Message - (4:1-2)

2 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

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.

A painting of a bearded man in a red robe, likely a saint or scholar, writing with a quill. He is surrounded by lit candles, and the scene is set in a dark, intimate space.

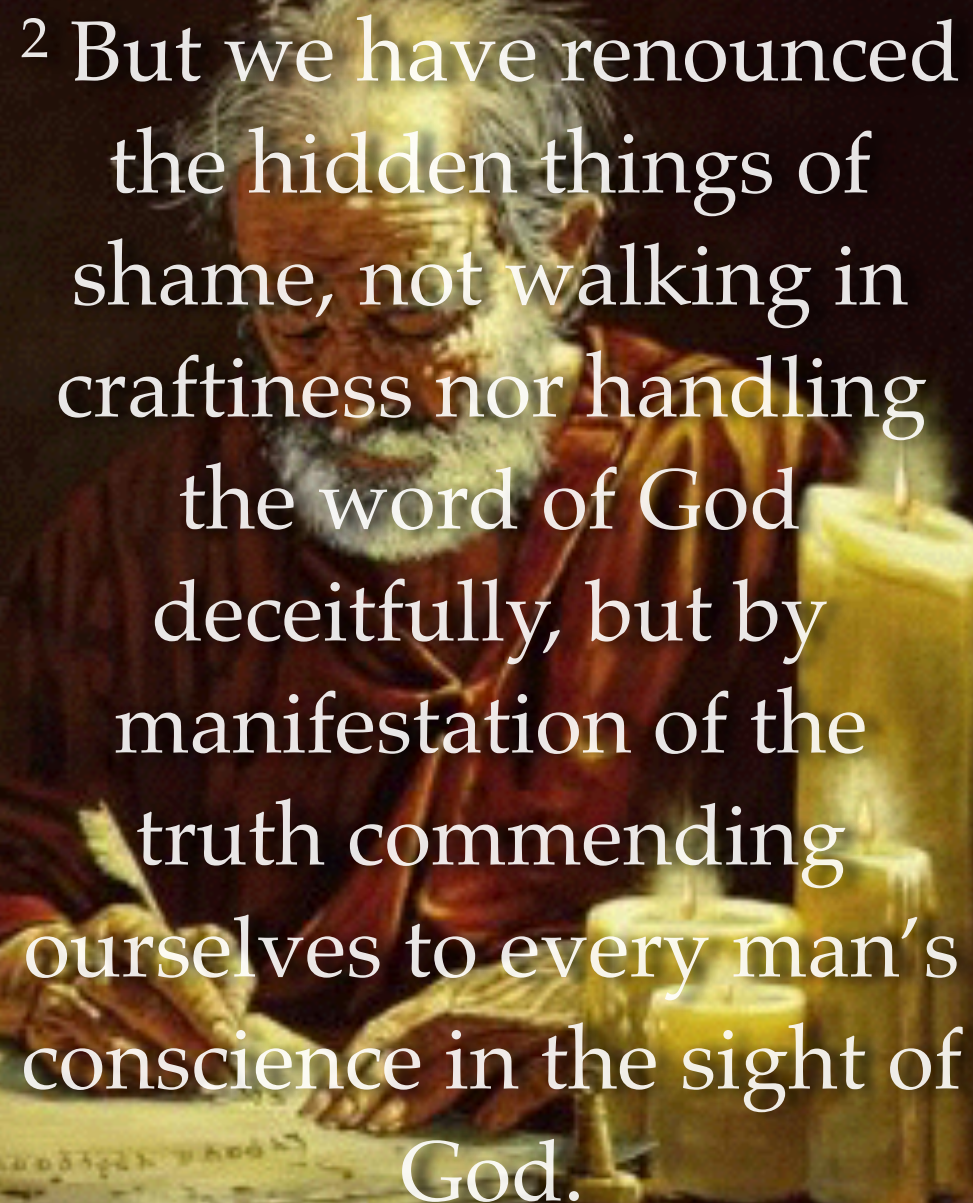
- ◆ Faithful Servants Stand Opposed To Shameful Tactics -
 - There is a series of things which Paul renounces and refused to use in his own ministry:
 - (1) *underhanded means; (flattery)*
 - (2) *disgraceful methods; (bribery)*
 - (3) *cunning; (human wisdom)*
 - (4) *tampering with or watering down God's message. (tickle ears)*

“The Veiled Gospel”

Obligations To The Message - (4:1-2)

2 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

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.



- ✦ Faithful Servants Preach The Truth With Love - (*cf. Ep 4:14,15*)
 - Paul strove to preach only the truth, (2 Tim 4:2).
 - Paul diligently sought to do nothing that would cause offense - (1 Cor 9:12,19-23; ; 10:23,24,29, 32,33; Rom 14:14-23; etc.)
 - Paul NEVER compromised the gospel, but voluntarily limited his liberties for the furtherance of the gospel. God was his witness.

“The Veiled Gospel”

The Veiled Message - (4:3-4)



2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV)

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.

- ◆ Some people just do not get it (cf. Matt. 13; 2 The 2:10-12).
- “Even if” - (*since it is*)
- “Our gospel is veiled” - Many would NOT believe.
- As the Jews were “*hardened*” (cf. 3:14; Jn 5,6: Isa. 6:9–10), hearers in every age are also hardened, i.e., “*blinded*” to the truth - (cf. 4:4).

“The Veiled Gospel”

The Veiled Message - (4:3-4)



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- ◆ Some people just do not get it (*cf. Matt. 13; 2 The 2:10-12*).
- Paul is continuing his analogy of the gospel as an aroma of life and of death (*cf. 2:15; Deut 30:11-16; 1 Cor. 1:18–19; 8:11; 10:9–10; 15:18*).
- Those perishing, are perishing because they are in sin & reject the gospel, their only hope. (*Gal. 3:10; Rom 7*)

“The Veiled Gospel”

The Veiled Message - (4:3-4)



2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV)

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.

◆ Satan blinds those who do not believe - (2 The 2:10-12).

- 1. Satan (*cf. Rom. 16:20; 1 Cor. 5:5; 7:5; 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:14; 12:7; 1 Thess. 2:18; 2 Thess. 2:9; 1 Tim. 1:20; 5:15*)
- 2. Devil (*cf. Eph. 4:27; 6:11–12; 1 Tim. 3:6, 7; 2 Tim. 2:26; 1 Cor. 10:20–21*)
- 3. “The prince & power of the air” (*cf. Eph. 2:2*)
- 4. “the god of this age, world” (*cf. 1 Cor. 4:4, John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11*)
- 5. “the tempter” (*cf. 1 Thess. 3:5*)
- 6. “the evil one” (*cf. 2 Thess. 3:3*)

“The Veiled Gospel”

The Veiled Message - (4:3-4)



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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.

- ◆ Satan blinds those who do not believe - (2 The 2:10-12).
- Satan is active - Mat 13:19
- Why were the Jews blinded to Jesus? - John 5:39-47; 6:41-52; 8:44
- How Satan blinds people today -
 - ▶ The Veil of Worldly Wisdom
 - ▶ The Veil of Public Opinion
 - ▶ The Veil of Human Tradition
 - ▶ The Veil of Prejudice
 - ▶ The Veil of Practice - Jn 3:18-20

“The Veiled Gospel”

The Veiled Message - (4:3-4)



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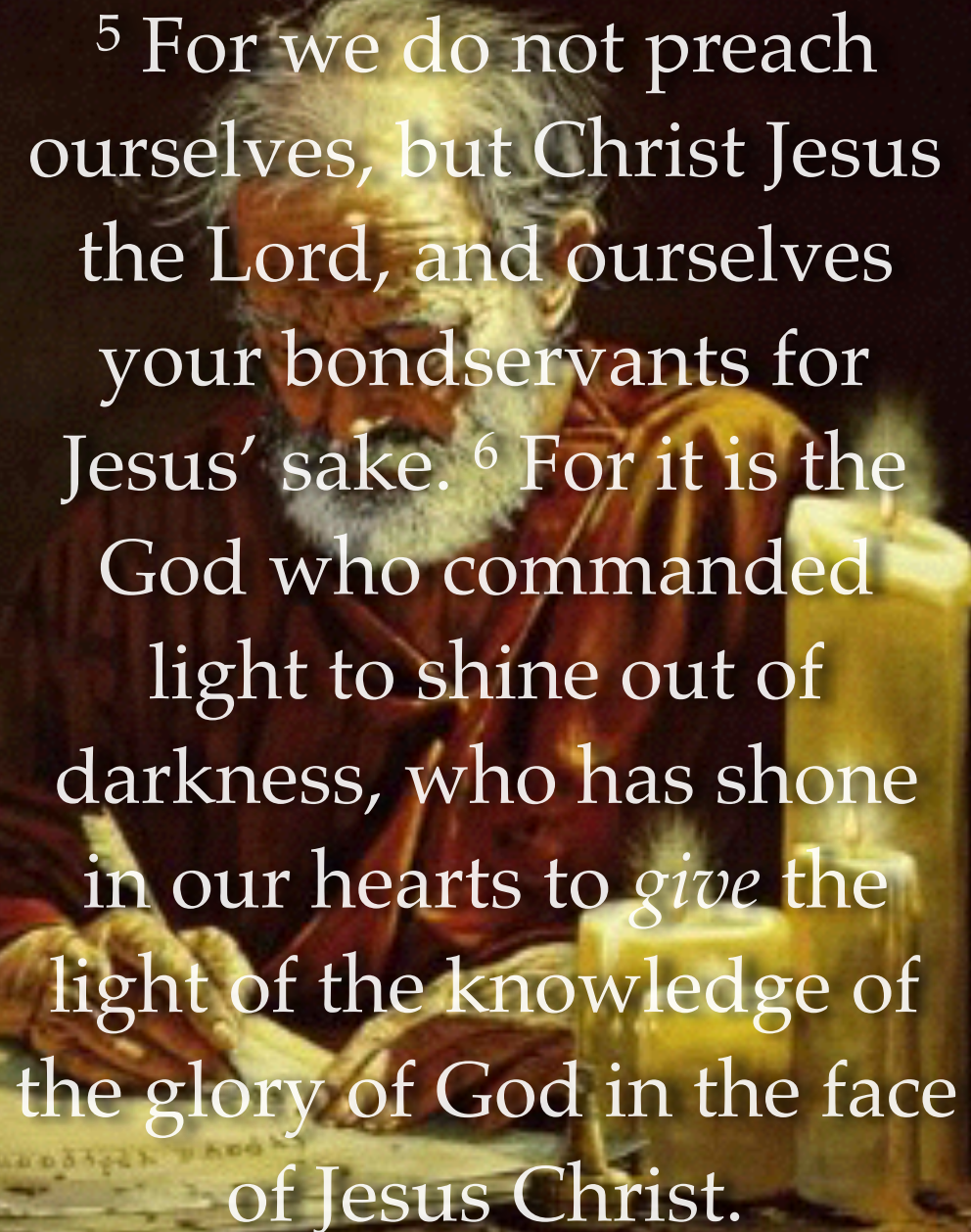
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⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- ◆ The Gospel is God’s power to save - (Romans 1:16).
- The gospel is not obscure. ANYONE who wills to know His will can see it - (Jn 5:39; 7:17)
- The scriptures clearly point to Christ who, as the image of God (cf. Col. 1:15), revealed God the Father by His words and actions (cf. John 1:18; 14:9).

“The Veiled Gospel”

The Unveiled Message - (4:5-6)

2 Corinthians 4:5–6 (NKJV)



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.

- ◆ All about Jesus - (1 Cor 2:1-5).
 - Christ was the Focus of Paul's message and the Object of his concern. - (1:19; 1 Cor 1:23)
 - Paul gave all in his service to them because he had given all to the Lord - (Phili 2:17; 3:7-11)
 - The Gospel SHINES out of darkness - (*Rom 5:8-10; Ep. 1:17; 5:8.*) - the OT mystery revealed - (*Eph 3:3-5; 2 Pe. 1:19*)

“The Veiled Gospel”

How Will We Respond To The Gospel?

- ◆ Unwilling, & therefore unable to believe?
- ◆ Willing, & therefore believe it?

- Hear it - Rom 10:17
- Believe it - Jn 8:44; Heb 11:6
- Repent - Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
- Confess - Rom 10:9,10
- Baptism - Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38
- Serve - 1 Cor 15:58



(2 Corinthians 4:1-6)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

“The Veiled Gospel”

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2 TIMOTHY 4:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

2 TIMOTHY 4:1–5 (NKJV)

⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.