

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Magnificent Ministry"
2 Corinthians 4:1-6
Study-5

2 Corinthians 4:1 we do not lose heart,
2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart,

lose heart – *faint, "give in to evil, to behave badly, or lose courage."*

2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry: Paul shares the power of the message from his heart. It comes from an all-powerful God!

1 Corinthians 12:7

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Believer's Calling Is A Result Of God's Mercy And Ourselves Being Honest In Walking In Humility"

1. Verse 1 Determination

2. Verses 2-4 Honesty

3. Verses 5-6 Humility

1. Verse 1 Determination

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, - Paul has spoken about the sufficiency of Christ. Our need is met in Jesus Christ. Paul had been given a NT ministry. Paul's ministry was that of grace. **2 Corinthians 3:18**

transformed – *The English word metamorphosis is a transliteration of this Greek word. Metamorphosis describes the process that changes an insect from a caterpillar to a cocoon and then a butterfly.*

since we have this ministry, - It is literally translated as *"Therefore, seeing we have this kind of ministry."*

What kind of ministry? The kind described in the previous chapter: a glorious ministry that brings men life, salvation, and righteousness; a ministry that is able to transform men's lives.

"The Law can bring us to Christ, but only grace can make us like Christ!"

Ministry Of Life: 2 Corinthians 3:6 but the Spirit gives life.

A ministry that gives life and freedom, not bondage. Not a ministry that focuses upon the externals but one that is concerned with the heart.

Ministry Of Liberty: 2 Corinthians 3:17 there is liberty.

Ministry Of Transformation: 2 Corinthians 3:18 being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,

Paul was conscious of a God-given great task: since we have this ministry,

Romans 1:16

Paul was conscious of great mercy: as we received mercy, This term **mercy** – *"not getting what we deserve."*

Grace – *"receiving what we don't deserve."*

Mercy In Salvation: 1 Timothy 1:12-16

Romans 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

Mercy In Service: 1 Timothy 1:12

Paul looked at the ministry as a sacred trust! **1 Timothy 1:11**

Paul was a realist: that the ministry entailed problems.

2 Timothy 1:11-12

we do not lose heart, - How could Paul lose heart knowing that he was entrusted with a ministry? That God had saved him, called him to service?

God's Mercy, Grace And Calling Kept Paul From Quitting:

2. Verses 2-4 Honesty

2 Corinthians 4:2

Paul rejected three faulty areas of motivation by the false teachers:

- **#1. Reject Hidden Dishonesty: but we have renounced the things hidden** – *"dishonesty" because of shame, – "to be ashamed, to handle with unclean hands."*
- **#2. Reject Walking In Craftiness: not walking in craftiness** – *"The fisherman that uses bait to lure away a fish, to do whatever one pleases to achieve a certain goal."* **"The End Justifies The Means!"**
- **#3. Reject Corrupting The Word Of God: or adulterating the word of God,** the word **adulterating** – *"to make corrupt" Lies, half-truths, mixture, little truth with a big lie!*

2 Timothy 4:1-3

Proof- Texting – Come with a preconceived idea and find a verse to back it up!

Positive: but by the manifestation of truth - Let the truth stand on its own.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."

Positive: commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. Paul said, I was honest all the time, and my conscience is laid bare before the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:3 it is veiled (hid) to those who are perishing,
The gospel message is veiled or covered. They are perishing because they have rejected the message.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Why is the gospel veiled? It's because persons have rejected the truth, and Satan has blinded their minds.

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world

This is the Devil. He is called the god of this world because the world is under his power. **1 John 5:19**

has blinded the minds of the unbelieving,

The Devil uses deception, half-truths, partial truths to keep people under his power. **Romans 1:25**

so that they might not see the light - When the Bible uses the term light, it is a metaphor for truth. **John 3:19-21**

of the gospel of the glory of Christ, - The message is one that is glorious.

Christ, who is the image of God. The term **image** – "*The exact likeness.*" **Image** – Greek word *eikon* – by which we get our word *Icon*, which means *image or representation*.

Jesus is the revelation of what God is really like, not a cold plaster cast but the character and portrait of God.

Hebrews 1:3

exact representation – means the impression left by a die on a coin or a seal on wax. He is the exact impress of the essence of God.

3. Verses 5-6 Humility

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we do not preach (*Keep on preaching*) **ourselves**
(No man can save another man)

2 Corinthians 1:9, I don't trust myself
2 Corinthians 3:1-5 I don't commend myself,
2 Corinthians 4:5 I don't preach myself

but Christ Jesus as Lord, (God that became man) Jesus is Lord,
master. Put the light on Jesus. (Death, burial, and resurrection)

and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

We are servants of God!

**2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of
darkness," Genesis 1:1-5**

**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.** Paul compares
conversion to creation!

Ephesians 4:17-18

Application: "How To Guard Against Losing Heart"

1. Determination - We Have Been Entrusted With A Great Task.
2. Honesty - We Have The Truth It Will Speak For Itself.
3. Humility - We Have To Know It Is Not Us But Him.