

2 Cor. 4:1-7

“Carrying the Light for His Glory”



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



2 Cor. 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, 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 if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, **who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

I. THE EFFECT THAT CHRIST HAS UPON US AT THE PRESENT SERVING

2 Cor. 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, 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. We have respect

- We have respect for salvation – “...as we have received mercy...”
- We have respect for service – “...seeing we have this ministry...”
- We have respect for steadfastness – “...we faint not;”

B. We have renounced

- We have renounced dishonesty – “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness...”
- We have renounced deceitfulness – “...nor handling the word of God deceitfully...”
- We have renounced disappointment – “...but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

II. THE ENEMY THAT CREATES HAVOC UPON THOSE PREVENTED TO SEE

2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

A. The diagnosis – “...if our gospel be hid...hid to them that are lost:”

B. The declaration – “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...”

C. The desperation – “...lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**”

III. THE EMPHASIS THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE UPON PRESENTING SALVATION

2 Cor. 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, **who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

A. We are servants

2 Cor. 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

B. We are shining

2 Cor. 4:6 For God, **who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

C. We are simple

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have **this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, **and not of us.**

Conclusion

Jn. 12:46 I am come **a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me** should not abide in darkness.

- Because Christ is in us, as He is the light of the world, so should we shine for His glory!

Mt. 5:14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 **Let your light so shine** before men, that they **may see your good works, and glorify your Father** which is in heaven.