

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4:1-2

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

HEART CHECK

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Liberty, Law, Love, Grace, Freedom, Sonship, Slavery

Introduction to the Text; 2nd Corinthians 4:1-2

2Cor. 2:16

To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

2 Cor. 4:1-2

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.

I don't know if you notice things like this but;

Often while sitting waiting for a flight – I will watch the pilots in the cockpit do this..... they are doing their Preflight Check

Or what about Having a “Heart” Check-Up, that's Interesting

2Cor. 13:5

Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

HEART CHECK

1.) The Experience

v. 1

1a.) Have you encountered it ?

v. 1a

Verse 1a

2 Cor. 4:1

Therefore, since we have this ministry,

The “**Therefore**” Here
Is a directional indicator – meaning, everything that’s been said to this point.

The Greek New Testament Here Says;
Since we have this “**KIND**” of ministry.

Meaning there is **no other** like it. It is **totally unique**, and **one of a kind** and based upon “**The Therefore**” = The Letter of the Law vs. The Spirit of Grace.

My dear friends in the faith, we have been given something that no man can estimate or place a value on – it is far beyond our right or ability in our humanity to judge or criticize.

An Alien Message to This World

It is in fact not of this world. – it is absolutely and completely alien to our fallen human nature. - - It Is The Gospel of God.

Sneaking Ahead a Moment

2Cor. 4:7

But we have this **treasure** in **earthen vessels**,

This “Treasure”

Is that which is of infinite worth. something so priceless that there is no possible consideration given to purchase it.

What is implied here is that the real Christian has within them the power, the answer, the ways and means for a new life.

The power to Restore, Redeem, Re-Create, Re-Make.

(don't you want to go back and undo some things? don't you want to go back and change some things?)

Branding / Packaging / Labeling / Promoting

The “Earthen Vessel” of Our Humble, Fragile Human Bodies

1 Cor. 12:13

For by one (Holy) Spirit we were all baptized into one body (Church)—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one (Holy) Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is Almighty God

And at the moment of Faith – when you & I as individuals put our faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ – The Spirit of God moves inside of us to live.

At that very moment –

the very Act of being Born Again, being Born Anew happens

John 20:21-22

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” **22** And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

This eternal, heavenly DNA is coursing in the veins of the heaven-born Christian and it's designed to be transfused into other humans.

Eph. 1:12-14

:12 That we who first **trusted** in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.
:13 In Him you also **trusted**, after you heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation**; in whom also, having **believed**, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, **14** who is the **guarantee** (*down-payment*) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Verse 1

“Since We Have This **Ministry**.”

What **Ministry** is Paul Talking About?

Ministry **διακονία** diakonia, dee-ak-on-ee'-ah; our attending to Jesus. To service or aid. To teach, to guide, to steer, to direct, to serve. To relieve.

Meaning to Attend or Serve Jesus Christ = The Ministry.

“I have no problem serving Jesus, it's people that drive me nuts.”

The **Ministry** That Jesus Christ Has Given Us Who Believe is Not That We Must **Do, Do, Do** But It's That He Has **Done, Done, Done**. It's Not Earn It but Receive It.

THE EXPERIENCE

1b.) Have you understood it ?

v. 1b

Verse 1b

2 Cor. 4:1

as we have received **mercy** (*divine compassion*), we do not **lose heart**.

This is encouraging to me and I hope it is to you.

THEREFORE, This “**KIND**” of ministry is ours because and only because God is **MERCIFUL** by both saving us and using us.

as we have received **mercy** so distribute it to others by sharing with them the Good News.

You cannot give away what you do not have.

Matt. 10:7-8

And as you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." **8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.

Freely you have received, freely give.

Paul had the Right Attitude about Serving Others;

He understood that "working for Jesus" was the most wonderful and meaningful use of his body, soul, and spirit.

The more you allow yourself to be exposed to His glory the greater effect His glory has upon your life. discouragement, disappointment, depression = quitting
- - all evaporate when exposed to the brilliance of "This Ministry"

Ask Yourself – "is there something boiling out of me for God?"

What has happened to us since becoming a Christian is now the catalyst for what we do with our lives – that "doing" is our ministry life.

Beware of the "Social Justice" hype & movement. Why?

because I'm a Christian. - Let me explain. For 2,000 years my Bible has instructed me to reach out to others that are hurting and to do that in Jesus' name.

Gal. 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to all** (*people*) especially to those who are of the household of faith. (*Christians*)

2 Cor. 4:1

as we have received **mercy** (*divine compassion*), we do not lose heart.

Gal. 6:9

And let us not grow weary while **doing good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

HEART CHECK

2.) The Motive

v. 2a

2 Cor. 4:2a

2: But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully,

If the Apostle Paul had a **secret weapon** it would be this; *that he refused to let himself get discouraged or despondent.*

“I wanna know How he did that – what was his trick. What drug or medication did he use? – **verse 2 is it.**”

THE MOTIVE

2a.) Is there a transformation ?

v. 2a

Verse 2a

2 Cor. 4:2

2 But **we** have (1) **renounced** the **hidden things of shame**,

So what was the Result of the “Transformation” ?

He “refused, denied, wouldn’t allow” himself to go there because he could, did – renounce the past.

This is Great – The “**we**” here are all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Who are they? – they are the ones who have “**renounced** the **hidden things of shame**”

we (I Paul) **have renounced** = **pre-flight check**

renounced ἀπειπόμην apeipomen, ap-i-pom´-ane;

to stay-off or to push away from. to ward off. to resist, deny, reject, disavow, shun.

Hidden κρυπτός **kruptos**, kroop-tos´;
something concealed. Something held in the dark or kept private.
That thing hidden from others but not from God.

Shame αἰσχύνη **aischune**, ahee-skhoo´-nay.
That which causes embarrassment. causing disgrace. being made known to all in a public way.

The Christian is to be a godly man or woman whose life supports the message preached. Changed lives produce changed lives. Sheep reproduce other sheep, Christians make other Christians.

we (I Paul) **have renounced** = **pre-flight check**

What Could Those Hidden Things of Shame Be ?

we don't have to guess, we know.

You have some homework today. Take the time to look at the list of things that can snare us and hook us and trip us up – then avoid them at all costs.

Galatians 5, Ephesians 5, 1Corinth.6, Rev.22 = John 3:15-19

There are the “Acceptable Sins” that We Can Allow.

A self-serving agenda. Our own private plans. Personal attention.

Eph. 3:31-31

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

THE MOTIVE

2b.) Is there a reverence ?

v. 2b

Verse 2b

2 Cor. 4:2

(2) not walking in **craftiness**

serving or preaching or ministering for earthly returns “pay”.

Hey pastor Jack - dude the economy is bad. I lost my job. No one's hiring...
I'll sign up for the ministry. I'll become a pastor.
I can pick up a few bucks marrying people – counseling – burying people

This “Craftiness” is Profiteering off the Gospel.

I know it is possible to preach the gospel and to say things that are perfectly true, and yet the life that is behind the preaching can be contrary to the message preached. In a case like that there will be no real power. The power of the Word is seen when a man or woman is walking with God in communion with the Holy Spirit. – H.A. Ironside

THE MOTIVE

2c.) Is there an authenticity ?

v. 2

Verse 2

2 Cor. 4:2

nor handling the Word of God **deceitfully**,

using the Word of God, the Bible to exalt yourself.

No Better Ministry Motive Than John the Baptist's

John 3:29b-30

Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. **30** He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

A Beautiful Example in Malachi

Malachi 3:16

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard *them*; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.

1 Timothy 3:15b

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

HEART CHECK

3.) The Truth

v. 2b

2 Cor. 4:2

(4) but by **manifestation** of the truth
commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3a.) Do I possess it ?

v. 2

Verse 2

2 Cor. 4:2

but by **manifestation** of **the truth**

We have the truth – no apologies given

That is “truth is the most exciting thing possible”

Paul was confident in presenting the truth. He refused to traffic in the deceitfulness of lies and spin.

Are You Like This?

That when you either experience something that is really cool or fun or rewarding – you tell others about it? In sales, **THE RULE IS STILL TRUE – BY WORD OF MOUTH.**

Rom. 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,

It's the Boldness that Grows Out of the Confidence of The Scriptures.

2 Tim. 3:16

All Scripture is given by **inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

THE TRUTH

3b.) Do I live it ?

v. 2

Verse 2

2 Cor. 4:2

commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Commending / Approving / Qualifying

Because It's The "What" - That We're Proclaiming

Because It's The "Why" - That We're Proclaiming

Because It's The "When" - That We're Proclaiming

2Cor. 6:1-2

We then, as workers together *with Him* also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. **2** For He says: "*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*" Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Will You Today Respond To Christ's Offer?

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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