

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4:3-6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

A PLAN RIGHT OUT OF HELL

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

Part 2

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Satan, Salvation, Grace, Jesus Christ, Light, Darkness

Introduction to the Text; 2nd Corinthians 4:3-6

2 Cor.4:3-6

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. **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.**

Contrary to what we have heard from the lips of our friends and or acquaintances – which is **“God sends people to hell”** is totally untrue. The God of the Bible is not sending anyone to hell nor is He delighting over the fact that there is a whole host of people there now.

2 Peter 3:9b

...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1 John 2:2 NLT

He Himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—
and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

Col.1:13-14 NLT

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of **darkness** and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who purchased our freedom and **forgave our sins**.

BUT SATAN HAS A PLAN RIGHT OUT OF HELL

1.) To keep you in the dark

v. 3-4a

1a.) Dark about your soul

v. 3

2 Cor.4:3

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

1b.) Dark about your reason

v. 4a

2 Cor.4:4a

whose **minds** the god of **this age** has **blinded**,

1c.) Dark about your faith

v. 4a

2 Cor.4:4b

who do not believe,

A PLAN RIGHT OUT OF HELL

2.) To keep you from the light

v. 4b-5

there's some dumb t.v. program on
where they put a man in a totally dark room with all kinds of stuff in
it - like stuffed teddy bears and real snakes, jelly beans and big
spiders

the episode i saw - showed a guy (in the dark) freaking out as he
reached into a fish aquarium - - pulling out a teddy bear. but on his
second try he had no problem with a real snake - why?

because he misunderstood / misidentified
what he was holding.

TO KEEP YOU FROM THE LIGHT

2a.) Light would illuminate

v. 4b

2 Cor.4b

lest the **light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**,
who is **the image of God**, SHOULD SHINE ON THEM

But there is a strange power, **like a key to a lock.**

Ps.119:105

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Ps.119:130

The **entrance** of Your words gives light; It gives **understanding** to the simple.

Col. 1:15-17,19

He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him
all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and
invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were
created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all
things consist, **:19** For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should
dwell,

Jesus is The Light we Shine – **We Are The Reflectors**

Heb1:3

Who (Jesus) being the **brightness** of His glory and the **express** image of His
person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by
Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Danger - *the more you become comfortable with sin – the darker things get.*

Matt. 6:22-23

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. **23** But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

The longer you stay at sinning, the darker it gets
(*like the way some restaurants dim their lights*)

TO KEEP YOU FROM THE LIGHT

2b.) Light would educate

v. 5

2 Cor.4:5

For we do not **preach ourselves**, but **Christ Jesus the Lord**,

I will admit – preaching is a strange thing to do.
When we witness we are engaged in a weird exercise.

1 Cor. 1:18

For the message (preaching, telling, teaching) of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,

preach κηρύσσω **kerusso**, *kay-roos´-so*; to talk out loud, to herald or a town crier, preacher, proclaimer, publisher.

It's All and Only About Jesus Christ

1 Cor. 2:2

For I determined not to know anything among you except
Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

1 Cor.1:23-24

but we preach **Christ crucified**, to the Jews a stumbling block (*I can save myself*) and to the Greeks foolishness (*why would someone else help me*) , **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

TO KEEP YOU FROM THE LIGHT

2c.) Light would instruct

v. 5

and ourselves your **bondservants for Jesus' sake**

as **“Bondservants”** we are to be self-determined slaves of Jesus

bondservants δοῦλος **doulos**, *doō'-los*; from 1210; a slave by ownership or by willingness, literal or figurative – a willing servant. A slave by ones own choosing.

2 Corinthians 6:1

We then, as workers together with Him (God) also **plead** with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

The other day I saw a guy on a motorcycle weaving and darting in and thru traffic and I thought - - *if that guy knew how close he was to eternity “he would stop, fall on his face and cry out to God” before he plops on his face and wakes up in eternity without God.”*

A PLAN RIGHT OUT OF HELL

3.) To keep you **never knowing**

v. 6

3a.) Knowing His **creation**

v. 6

For it is **the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,**

For it is **“the”** God, **“the”** Creator God of Genesis (Genesis 1:3)

Paul compares the **moment of creation** with the **moment of conversion.**

That Is An Awesome Thought.

The Universe is NOT God's crowning creation. It's not mars, earth or the milky way – its you and me

It was easy for God to physically create all that there is compared to the redemptive act of our salvation.

2 Cor. 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

Eph. 2:1-6 NLT

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. **4** But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much...

Eph. 2:1-6 NLT continued

... **5** that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) **6** For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

One creation required **God** to speak.
The other creation required **Him** to die.

Jesus didn't die to make bad men good. Jesus died to make dead men live.

commanded ἔπω ερω, ep'-o; to speak forth or say to something. to bring out or to pull out by an order.

Gen. 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light, that it was good; and God **divided the light from the darkness.**

Heb. 11:3 NLT

By faith we understand that the entire universe was **formed at God's command**, that what we now see did not come from anything that could be seen.

shine λάμπω lampo, lam'-po; to beam, to radiate, shine, glow forth in brilliancy.

Isaiah 9:1b-2

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. **2** The people who **walked in darkness** Have seen a **great light**; Those who dwelt in the land of **the shadow of death**, Upon them **light has shined.**

TO KEEP YOU NEVER KNOWING

who **has shone in our hearts** to give
the light of the knowledge of the glory of God

John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...

3c.) Knowing His salvation

v. 6

in the face of Jesus Christ.

In contrast to Moses' encounter with God at Sinai = external glory
Encountering Jesus Christ internally = true glory

1 Thes. 4:4-5

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day (*in a sudden moment of time*) should overtake you as a thief. **5** (*why not?*) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

A PLAN RIGHT OUT OF HELL AND AN EYEWITNESS REPORT RIGHT OUT OF HELL

There is an Account in Luke's Gospel that Some Have Mistakenly
Understood it to be A Parable. It's not.

Jesus lets us in on just
What is Going On In Hell Right Now as We Sit Here

Luke 16:27-31

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, **28** for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' **29** Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' **30** And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' **31** But he said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."

And so here you are today just like Jesus said;

"you are not listening to Moses (conviction) and you're not listening to the prophets (proof of who Jesus is) you're not even paying attention to the fact that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.

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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