

## Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 4

Therefore, having **this ministry** by the mercy of God, **we do not lose heart.** <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We **refuse to** practice cunning or to **tamper with God's word**, but by the **open statement of the truth** we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

**2 Cor. 5:18**- All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

### 1. God Brings People into the Light (3-6)

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the **god of this world has blinded the minds** of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has **shone in our hearts** to give the light of the **knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ.

### 2. Your Weakness Shows God's power (7-9)

<sup>7</sup> But we have this **treasure in jars of clay**, to show that the surpassing **power belongs to God** and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

### 3. Death Produces Life (10-14)

<sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, **so that** the life of **Jesus** also may be **manifested** in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, **so that** the life of **Jesus** also may be **manifested** in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you. <sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus **will raise us** also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

### 4. God Deserves more Glory (15)

<sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

**Big Idea: Don't lose heart in your ministry.**

1. God Brings People into the Light
2. Your Weakness Shows God's power
3. Death Produces Life
4. God Deserves more Glory

## 5. Present Suffering Produces Eternal Glory (16-18)

<sup>16</sup>So **we do not lose heart**. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being **renewed** day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this **light momentary affliction** is **preparing** for us an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison,<sup>18</sup> as **we look not** to the things that are **seen** but to the things that are **unseen**. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

## Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 4

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:1–2**

- What is your ministry?
- How discouraged are you in your ministry?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:3–6**

- Why is it encouraging to know that God brings people into the light?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:7–9**

- Why does God use weak vessels to do His work?
- How have you experienced God's power in your weakness?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:10–14**

- How have you seen dying to self bear fruit in others' lives?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:15**

- What percentage of people worshiping Jesus would you be content with?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18**

- How much will your current sufferings matter when you are in eternal glory with Jesus?
- What is one way you can be more active in your ministry this month?