

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4 vs 1

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<sup>1</sup> Therefore as we have **this diakonia** / **this ministry**, serving, what angels do; next of what women do; the Lord Jesus told us it is what He came to do; and answering the disciples question He said, it is what the greatest among God's people do.

It means: **to serve**... not to be served,

**as we were shown mercy, so we do not lose heart.**

<sup>2</sup> **Instead, we renounced the secret and shameful things** / Paul says no hocus pocus allowed; it is strange churchianity bringing their darkness where there is no light... who use fear to bludgeon men and women into their weird broken kingdom; that is not Paul, he brings light where there is only darkness,

**not walking in deceit nor twisting the word of God** / Paul says, not me! It is a strange church that sneaks around probably about the whole world... deviously scheming; Paul says, no clever tricks allowed, we love the light; Paul wasn't suffering persecution because he was deceitful;

**but commending ourselves before God to every conscience, by displaying the truth,** / that's Paul's method: **openly setting forth the truth**; by clear statements of truth; only by declaring the truth.

<sup>3</sup> **But if our gospel is covered, it is covered to those who are perishing** / if our good news is hid out of view; it is to the lost world; including the strange churchianity world deviously twisting God's word for their own purposes! Dr. Dallas Willard, philosophy professor at USC once said, Nobody misses heaven by an oops! They miss it if they weren't told the truth; and believed the lie.

<sup>4</sup> **in whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving** / this vulnerable part in our being where our thoughts and unruly feelings, along with external images beyond rational thought always intersect the soul. Paul warns the people of God, [set our minds on things above where Christ is seated](#)... get Christ in focus; renew our minds; refresh our thinking daily.

And think about it: if we can set our minds on things above... we can also set our minds on things below. It's a choice. But some might say: I want to be free to think and see, and do anything. Well, live on a 20-floor building for any period of time, and you will learn to think clearly. If Paul says, renew our minds; refresh our minds; it is because our minds can start to stink and rot and decay like everything else down here.

This word for mind is closely related to the METANOIA word... Jesus said to his students: **meta = change + noia = mind**. Jesus said: change your thinking; think differently... and being the good Teacher, Jesus did not teach like the boring world; if He sounded like what we hear now, then what He started would have died long ago. Jesus taught: the way of joy and peace... that you might find rest for your soul,



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**to keep them from seeing the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God** / you know, from the beginning, the itinerary and destination of mankind hasn't changed a bit, it was previously planned; God said: [Let Us make Adam... in Our image and Our likeness](#); not very confusing is it? Well, the first Adam messed up... but God had a contingency plan ready,

<sup>5</sup> **For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord** / without question Paul was different than modern religious leaders, flaunting themselves, in hopes to dazzle an audience with their scripted hocus pocus; Paul says, we preach His words, His ideas, His images, His patterns of thinking; and information about what is real; about the way to the kingdom of love and joy and peace in the Spirit;

**and ourselves as your servants because of Jesus.**

<sup>6</sup> **For God who said, let light shine out of darkness** / God once said: [Let there be light](#) and suddenly light existed!; **He has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God** seen in the face of **Jesus Christ**.

<sup>7</sup> **Now we have this treasure in clay jars** / prone to break, with a valuable treasure imputed in a fragile container, **that the extraordinary power may be of God, and not of us.**

<sup>8</sup> **We are afflicted in every way, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;**

<sup>9</sup> **persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed** / in the world we will have troubles and pounding, but with the power of God... we are able to get up and keep going. He gave His solemn promise: I will never leave you, which means: He is there... whether or not you can see Him. [Paul could get up; he picked up his cross daily and](#) kept it close to his heart; not forgetting what Jesus did.

<sup>10</sup> **We always carry the death of Jesus in our body; so that the life of Jesus be also displayed in our body.**

<sup>11</sup> **For we who live are always given over to death for the sake of Jesus** / we are always considered good as dead, **so that the life of Jesus be also displayed in our mortal flesh.**

<sup>12</sup> **So then death is at work in us, but life in you.**

<sup>13</sup> **And since we have the same spirit of faith, in keeping with what is written, [I believed, and so, I speak](#) -- Psalm 116:10; we also believe, and so, we speak;**

<sup>14</sup> **Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus; will also raise us by Jesus, and present us with you.**

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<sup>15</sup> Indeed, all this is for your benefit, as grace extends to more and more people, it may cause giving thanks to increase to **the glory of God** / Jesus is **the glory of God**; so thank Him!

<sup>16</sup> So, we do **not** give up; even though our outer person decays, yet our inner person is renewed day by day.

<sup>17</sup> For our momentary light affliction,

**is producing for us an incomparable eternal weight of glory** / many years ago, C.S. Lewis wrote: ...it is hardly possible for one to think too often or too deeply about the potential glory of his neighbor. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken.

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship; or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.

All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with awe, and circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics.

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization -- these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit -- immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.

The Weight of Glory, C.S. Lewis ©1949, MacMillan Company;

<sup>18</sup> **We do not focus on what is seen, but what is not seen** / sight and insight are different! Paul said, the kingdom of God is not meat and drink -- he could have listed 1000 more things, all dust collecting stuff, but he didn't have time, he was in a hurry to say: but doing what is right, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit: Paul knew what Jesus knew: **without a changed mind**, there will be no changed heart.

**for what is seen is temporary** / things like heaven and earth will pass away some day;

**but what is unseen** / things like love, joy and peace... and so much more; **is eternal**.

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[The Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him](#)

[Every Praise](#)