

2 CORINTHIANS

4: 1-10

- *WHAT DOES IT MEAN?*

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EXPOSITORY PREACHING

EXPOSE | UNCOVER | MAKE KNOWN

- Presents the meaning and intent of a biblical text, providing commentary and examples to make the passage clear and understanding

(<https://www.gotquestions.org/expository-preaching.html>)

EXPOSITORY
PREACHING
(CONT'D)

S – Situation

T – Type of Text

O – Object of the Text

***P – Prescriptive or
Descriptive***

(Credit: Dr. Frank Turek)

EXPOSITORY PREACHING (CONT'D)

- ***“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME.”***
– PHILIPPIANS 4:13
- **Situation:** Paul is on house arrest
- **Text:** Letter
- **Object:** Philippian church
- **Passage:** Descriptive

OVERVIEW

2 CORINTHIANS



<https://youtu.be/3lfPK2vfC54> - Credit: The Bible Project

CONTEXT (CONT'D)

- Paul has 3 main missionary journeys'
 - o The 2nd is where he connects with the Corinthians. Note: Corinth was like the Las Vegas of the world - centre of debauchery and sexual excess
- He stays with the Corinth church for 18 months
- After leaving Corinth, he hears of the immorality that has seeped into the church and writes them a harsh letter (1 Cor. 5: 9) which is now lost
- While in Ephesus, he receives word of divisions and troubles with the church
- The church also writes a letter to Paul asking to clarify some issues (1 Cor. 7: 1)
- Paul responds with '1 Corinthians'
- With plans to stay longer at Ephesus, Paul sends Timothy to Corinth
- Here, Paul hears of false teachers who are assaulting his character, turning the Corinthian church against him

CONTEXT (CONT'D)

- Paul leaves Ephesus to go to Corinth, but the visit is not a successful one from his perspective
- He returns to Ephesus and writes a “severe letter”. He sends it with Titus to the Corinthians
- Paul leaves Ephesus due to the riots (Acts 19: 23 – 20:1)
- Paul goes to Troas to meet Titus (Titus not there)
- Goes to Macedonia to look for Titus (finds him)
- Titus tells Paul that the majority of Corinthians have repented of their rebellion against him, to which he rejoices (2 Cor. 7: 7)
- However, knowing that there will still be some rebellious attitudes that could blow up later, Paul writes 2 Corinthians
- **Main theme of the letter (2 Cor):**
 - **Expresses joy at their repentance**
 - **Defends his apostleship**
 - **Exhort Corinthians to resume preparations for the collection for the poor at Jerusalem**
 - **Confronting the false apostles head on**

GROUP EXERCISE

- Apply S.T.O.P to
2 Corinthians 4: 1-10
- **SITUATION**
- **TYPE OF TEXT**
- **OBJECT OF TEXT**
- **PRESCRIPTIVE or
DESCRIPTIVE**

ANSWERS?

- **SITUATION**
 - Paul writing to show the life of a true servant of Jesus
- **TYPE OF TEXT**
 - Letter
- **OBJECT OF TEXT**
 - Corinth Church
- **PRESCRIPTIVE or DESCRIPTIVE**
 - Both – explaining the situation, but also suggesting how to live

1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

- Paul was only able to 'preach the gospel' because of God's mercy
- Because of this,, Paul and co. didn't go down the path of discouragement

2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

- 'Deception' – not a diluted, watered-down gospel
- 'Distort' – remixing God's Word to suit us
- Rather Paul and co. would preach the gospel purely, whole and straight

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing

- The gospel is hidden to some people
- The people to whom it is hidden from, are those who are NOT saved or are heading for destruction

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- 'The god of this age' – Satan
- Those who don't have a belief in God are susceptible to Satan's work of blinding them to God's light
- The gospel – which shows Jesus' glory, the undistorted image of God – is the light

5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

- The gospel focuses only on one person: Jesus Christ!

5 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”[a] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

- God created physical light
- He also makes His (gospel) ‘light’ shine in the hearts of Paul and other believers
- Light = God’s glory in Jesus

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

- Treasure = Gospel = Light (from prev. verse)
- Jars of clay = Us
- The gospel is in us, but put there only by God so it can be shown that the power of the ‘treasure’ is from God alone

8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

- We are pressured from all sides, but are kept from being crushed;
- We are sometimes ‘lost’ but kept from being completely lost or without hope

9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

- Troubled, but not left by ourselves;
- Made low, but not removed entirely

10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

- Having true Christian faith means we carry with us the life of Christ – we carry both His death and resurrection in our bodies

THEME OF CAMP: REMNANT

“...is a left-over amount from a larger portion, whether it is food, material from which a garment is fashioned, or even a group of people.” (gotquestions.org)

E.g.:

- Genesis 6: 7-8 (Noah & family)
- 1 Kings 19: 14, 18 (Elijah & 7000)
- Isaiah 10: 20-22 (Physical remnant of Israel)
- Romans 9: 27-28 (Spiritual remnant of Israel)

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 3-4 & 7

PERISHING/UNBELIEVERS

- Gospel is VEILED from those who are perishing (vs. 3)
- Satan is BLINDING the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel (vs. 4)

REMNANT

- Remnant = Have 'this treasure in jars of clay', 'light of the knowledge of God's glory' (vs. 7)
- *Remnant = True Church, True Believers, the Body of Christ*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7 = REMNANT

- Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV):

“Enter by the narrow gate.

*For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction,
and those who enter by it are **many**.*

*For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and
those who find it are **few**.”*

Many will enter the ‘wide gate and easy way’ which leads to ‘eternal destruction’

But few (the remnant) would enter through the narrow gate which leads to eternal salvation.





JOHN 3:16

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ROMANS 3:23



1 COR. 15:1-4



CHOOSE...

CONCLUSION:
THE GOSPEL