



Today's Message

Date: December 16, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The Glory of God in the Face of Jesus*

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² 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. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ 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.

Introduction: The gospel message is life-giving and life-changing (see 3:18). God has entrusted the proclamation of this message to his people. In today's text, Paul explains that the Christian mission faces difficulty and great opposition in this world. The "god of this world," Satan, works to blind the minds of unbelievers to prevent them from seeing the light of the gospel. Yet, "we do not lose heart" because we know that God is at work. The text concludes with a confident assertion that God will use our message to "shine the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" into human hearts.

Today's take-home truth: God has entrusted to us the ministry of his life-giving, life-changing message.

I. This ministry brings heavy burdens. 1-2

- A. Even so, we refuse to give up . . . 1
 - 1. because we have “seen” God’s glory . . .
 - 2. and we understand God’s mercy.
- B. And we refuse to compromise . . . 2
 - 1. never resorting to the world’s methods . . .
 - 2. always speaking God’s word openly and boldly.

II. This ministry faces strong opposition. 3-4

- A. Not everyone will “hear” us—in fact, most won’t. 3
- B. The spiritually blind regard Christ as nothing. 4

III. This ministry will achieve a glorious result. 5-6

- A. Our work: In humble service to others, we proclaim: “Jesus Christ is Lord.” 5
- B. Our confidence: We know that God will use this message to “turn on the light” in darkened hearts—just as he did in our own. 6