



**SECOND DAY:** Read II Corinthians 4:1,2

1. The word *Therefore* in II Corinthians 4:1a links this chapter with the previous chapter. Even though Paul experienced hardships and opposition in the ministry, he was confident God called him to minister the gospel. Think about this as you complete Paul's statement from verse 1:

*Therefore, seeing (since) we have this ministry, \_\_\_\_\_*  
*\_\_\_\_\_;*

- a. Define the word *mercy*.
- b. What might cause a person to *faint* (lose heart or give up) in ministry?
- c. How should knowing the *mercy* of God and that He had called you to minister enable you to persevere and *not faint*?

(1.) What is the promise of Galatians 6:9?

2. Read II Corinthians 4:2. Paul recognized both the privilege and responsibility of ministry. Record the three phrases from verse 2a that reveal the integrity of Paul's ministry.

- a. One Bible commentary says of verse 2b: *We manifest the truth when we tell it out in a plain, understandable manner. But we also manifest it when we live it in our lives before others so they can see it by our example.* With this in mind briefly explain the importance of having an honest ministry and living with a clear conscience before God and man.

3. All believers have been called to share the gospel with others. In your own words write what the following verses say to you as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ:

- a. II Corinthians 4:1

- b. II Corinthians 4:2

**THIRD DAY:** Read II Corinthians 4:3,4

1. Paul sought to make the truth of gospel clear to all. Although the meaning of the word *gospel* is *good news*, not everyone who hears the message of Christ receives it as *good news*. Today's study of II Corinthians 4:3,4 will help us understand why this happens. Cite reasons for this from verses 3b,4a.
  - a. Unbelievers are *lost* and *blind*. What did Jesus say about unbelievers according to John 3:19,20?
  
2. The word *hid* in II Corinthians 4:3 means *veiled*. In II Corinthians 4:4 the phrase *god of this world* can be translated *god of this age*. Satan is the ultimate source behind the veiling of the gospel. From II Corinthians 11:14 identify one of his methods of blinding people.
  - a. Briefly share a present day example of this.
  
  - b. Look at verse 4 once more. Why does the enemy want to keep the mind of the unbeliever blind?
  
  - c. We know that prayer in Jesus' name binds the enemy's influence over the mind of an unbeliever so that he can hear the gospel clearly. Use Acts 26:18 to pray for someone you know who is lost.
  
3. Don't miss the powerful declaration in II Corinthians 4:4c concerning Christ. Meditate on this phrase as you print it here.
  - a. How does Colossians 1:15a and Hebrews 1:3a validate this glorious truth?
  
4. Write a sentence of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for *the light of the glorious gospel of Christ*.

**FOURTH DAY:** Read II Corinthians 4:5

1. You will recall that this letter was mainly Paul's defense of his apostleship and ministry in response to those who opposed him. In II Corinthians 4:5 Paul responded to his accusers by defending his message. What did he say?
2. Rather than exalting himself over others as a minister, Paul described himself as their *servant for Jesus' sake*. The Greek word translated *servants* here is *bondservants* or *slaves*. How should this have affected the Christians in Corinth?
3. What do you learn from Paul's example in II Corinthians 4:5 that you can apply to your life?

*Though I am no man's slave,  
yet I have made myself everyone's slave,  
that I might win more men to Christ.*  
I Corinthians 9:19 Phillips

**FIFTH DAY:** Read II Corinthians 4:6

1. II Corinthians 4:6 is a powerful verse. Ponder the meaning of each phrase as you write it here.
  - a. Link Genesis 1:3 with verse 6a Phillips: *God, Who first ordered light to shine in the darkness.* What impresses you the most about this?
2. The God Who created light *made His light shine in our hearts* (II Corinthians 4:6b NIV). What reason is given in verse 6c for this?
  - a. In John 8:12 NKJV Jesus said . . . *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.* As followers of Jesus we are to reflect His light. What instruction are we given in Matthew 5:16?
3. When on the Damascus Road Paul was introduced to and radically transformed by this Light. (Acts 9:1-29.) What change has the Light of Jesus made in your life?

**SIXTH DAY:** Review II Corinthians 4:1-6

1. As a *servant* of Christ how has your study of II Corinthians 4:1-6 ministered to you this week?
  
2. Record one principle for maintaining integrity in Christian ministry from the following verses:
  - a. II Corinthians 4:1,2
  
  - b. II Corinthians 4:5
  
3. Reflect for a moment on the desperate condition of the unbeliever as described in this week's lesson. How does this increase your motivation to witness?
  
4. Comment on the following quote, *God's light shines in us so that God's light can shine out of us.*
  
5. Write an acronym or acrostic for the word:

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*A Christian servant  
is one who perpetually looks in the face of God  
and then goes out to talk to people.  
-selected*