

March 6, 2022
II Corinthians 4:1-6 "TRUTH"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Therefore, what is it therefore? Because of the New Covenant.

This ministry of the gospel was given to Paul in spite of his past. God showed him grace and had compassion on him.

Satan blinds people to the TRUTH of the gospel. (see **II Corinthians 4:4**)

Paul renounced his former sinful life. This life brought a heavy burden upon him. That was in the past, now he lives freely by God's mercy. (forgetting the former things . . . see (**Philippians 3:13; Isaiah 43:18-19**)).

Shame produces: embarrassment, and humiliation. Do you have a secret sinful life that you willfully cling to? If so, deal with it by the grace of God.

When these sins creep back into one's life he/she must defeat them through prayer and the Word. (see **Ephesians 6:10-20**)

To adulterate the Word of God is to use it for one's own purposes. "Peddling the Word" (see **II Corinthians 2:17**). This is how one is deceitful and in some way distorts the Word of God, thereby abandoning TRUTH.

Notice the word TRUTH. The sure mark of a disciple of Jesus is a love for the TRUTH of the Bible. Do you love the whole counsel of God's Word?

I determine to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (see **I Corinthians 2:2**) Salvation is never a result of persuasion, it is a sovereign act of God. Think about the 4 seeds, all sown at one time, different results. So what is the sower's part in all of this? Not cleverness but commitment to the TRUTHS of Scripture. Only God can open sin-blinded eyes.

Application:

Our message is His message. The message is Christ Jesus as LORD. There is an old saying, either Jesus is Lord of all or not Lord at all, ponder this. Do you have some old sin that seems to always creep back into your life? Renounce that sin. The only thing it will do is bring you down, cause shame and a fear of being found out, and hold you back from fulfilling the purpose the Lord has for your life. It is a constant struggle for us all in one way or another. The way Paul overcame it is the same way we will be overcomes; cry out for God's mercy. Forget the former sins and failures of your life. "Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life." (**Romans 6:4 CSB**)

This newness of life is only possible by faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sin. God has given us the TRUTH of His Word, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (**II Timothy 3:16-17 CSB**) Beloved, there is no substitute for the giving of one's self to lifelong study of the Holy Scriptures.