

The Light of the Gospel; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

- I. Light v. Dark
 - A. The only neutral is in a transmission
 - B. “For evil men to accomplish their purpose it is only necessary that good men should do nothing.” Charles F. Aked, 1916 (preacher)
 - C. There is no neutral with God
 - D. Matthew 12:30 (ESV); Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
 - E. There is dark (wickedness) and there is light (righteousness)
- II. Knowledge
 - A. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV); 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.
 - B. The knowledge of the Glory of God is light
 - C. Paul uses creation as an illustration
 1. Genesis 1:3–5 (ESV); ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
 2. What is interesting is that God does not create the sun, moon, and stars until day 4
 3. Genesis 1:14–19 (ESV); ¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
 - a) They rule the day and night
 - b) They give light on the earth
 - c) They separate day and night
 - d) They separate light and darkness
 - D. Jesus is the “light of the knowledge of the glory of God”
 - E. John 12:44–46 (ESV); ⁴⁴ And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
 - F. When we grow in the knowledge of Jesus, we grow in our understanding and behavior of God’s will
- III. Renounce
 - A. 2 Corinthians 4:1–2 (ESV); ¹ 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.
 - B. The Gospel is truth — we cannot present it any other way
 1. We cannot ‘trick’ people into believing Jesus is the Christ
 2. We cannot ‘shame’ people into believing Jesus is the Christ
 3. We cannot ‘guilt’ people into believing Jesus is the Christ
 4. We must present the Gospel as the truth of God’s word — His will for His creation (us)
 - C. We cannot twist the word of God to fit our wants or desires

1. Isaiah 5:20 (ESV); Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
 - D. We must present the truth, the Gospel, as it was given to us
- IV. The Image of God
- A. 2 Corinthians 4:3–5 (ESV); 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.
 1. Image — icon
 2. Hebrews 1:3 (ESV); He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
 3. Imprint — character
 4. “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” John 14:9 (in part)
 - B. We have seen Jesus — we have seen the Father
 1. He has been made known to us through the Gospel, which is the Light, God's glory, The Messiah
 2. What we proclaim, the Gospel, is not from us — therefore we have no right to change it or make it say what it does not say
 3. We can claim to be enlightened — to know more
 4. But, the older I get the less I know
 5. We must “say what the text says” Ed Wharton
 6. We must present the image of God, the Gospel, the Light, the Messiah just as God has presented Himself to us
- V. The Light of the Gospel
- A. Jesus is the Light
 - B. Jesus is the Gospel
 - C. We must proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and us as His servants