

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED OF THE LORD
2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-7

Introduction

Vs 1 – Paul begins Chapter 4 with the word “*therefore*”. Always remember that when you see the words “*wherefore*” or “*therefore*” you always need to look back and see what they are there for!

Here Paul is continuing his thoughts about the **ministry of the glorious Gospel!** That is the “*this ministry*” that Paul is referring to!

Remember that Paul called it “*the ministration of the spirit*” (3:7) and “*the ministration of righteousness*” (3:9)!

We saw how it has a glory that does not fade as the glory from being in God’s presence faded from Moses’ face! In fact, the more we delve into the Glory of Christ and spend time in Christ’s presence through the Word of God, the more we are changed into His glory!

Now lets look at **what Paul says that we have received of the Lord!**

I. WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD’S MERCY! (Vs 1)

“...as we have received mercy...”

“mercy” = “*compassion shown by Divine grace; pity*”

“*Not getting what we justly deserve!*”

Titus 3:5–“*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

1 Peter 1:3–“*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*”

1 Peter 2:10–“*Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*”

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WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD’S MERCY...

II. WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD’S MINISTRY! (Vs. 1-5)

Whatever we do in ministry we need to make sure that we are doing it for the Lord because true ministry comes from Him!

**A. Our Ministry Involves The Word Of God! (Vs. 2)
It belongs to God!**

We are STEWARDS of the Gospel And The Word Of God!

1 Corinthians 4:1 *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.*
2 *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

1 Peter 4:10 *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

Remember that the Gospel is “*the ministration of the spirit*”! When the Holy Spirit did His work of salvation by the Gospel in our lives to bring us to Christ, He immediately took up residence within us to use us as instruments of ministration!

With Salvation and the Holy Spirit came this ministry to us! We have been given God’s ministry!

B. Our Manifestation Of The Truth Is To Be Consistent With Both The Word Of God And The Character Of God! (Vs 2)

Conduct becoming of one who belongs to God!

“...renounced the hidden things of *dishonesty*...”

i.e. Not involved in things that cause *shame or disgrace*.

“...not walking in *craftiness*...”

i.e. *Trickery* or *reasoning that is sound in appearance only*.

“...nor *handling* the word of God *deceitfully*...”

“*handling deceitfully*” = “*to ensnare*”

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“...but by *manifestation* of the Truth”
“*manifestation*” = “*exhibition or expression*”

We are to **exhibit** the truth with our **lives!**

We are to **express** the truth with our **lips!**

C. The Devil Opposes God’s Ministry (The Ministry Of The Gospel And The Word Of God!) (Vs. 3-4)

Realize that Satan is ALWAYS trying to **DECEIVE** people...
so He blinds them to Truth any way he can!
(e.g. One way is through organized RELIGION...
He’s OK with folks being RELIGIOUS, as long as
they stay BLIND to the Gospel!)

He is always trying to **DEFILE** the things of God...
so that He can keep folks blind to the Truth!
(e.g. That’s the danger of false preaching/teaching!)

He is always trying to **DEFEAT** those that follow Christ...
so that He can keep folks blind to the Truth!
(e.g. If he can get believers to fall or to quit, he
squelches their testimony and influence!)

He is always trying to **DESTROY** the things that belong to
God...so that He can keep folks blind to the Truth!
(e.g. That’s why he works so hard to destroy good
Local Churches)

We are not to have **ANY** participation in those things!

D. Additionally, We Are To Follow God’s Agenda, Not Ours! (Vs. 5)

After all, it is **GOD’S PLAN, not ours!**
How can we tell if we’re following God’s Agenda and not our
own agenda?

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a. **God’s Agenda Exalts Christ, Not Self!**

b. **God’s Agenda Serves Christ And Others For Christ’s Sake, Not Self!**

If we are serving ourselves, and things get tough, we
can just quit and try something else.

However, we must remember that we serve Christ!
There is to be no room for quit in HIS ministry!

So, we who are saved have received God’s Mercy...God’s Ministry...

III. WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD’S LIGHT! (vs. 6)

*Proverbs 4:19–“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not
at what they stumble.”*

Ephesians 5:8-14

*Matthew 5:16–“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see
your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

IV. WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD’S POWER! (vs. 7)

“*This Ministry*” in Verse 1 refers to the Gospel Ministry!
“*This Treasure*” in Verse 7 refers to the Gospel Possession! (Cf. Vs 6)

The Gospel in us IS a TREASURE! It is the most valuable possession
we have! And it resides within us!

Treasure in a Dirt Ball!...or Treasure in a Trash Can!

With “*this Treasure*” of the Gospel in our possession comes “*this
Ministry*” and the POWER to fulfill our part in “*this Ministry*”!

We, as Christians, are NOT to operate in our own human strength, but
rather in God’s strength...THE STRENGTH THAT HE GIVES!

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Proverbs 24:10—“If thou faint in the day of adversity, **thy strength is small.**”

Acts 1:8—“But ye **shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Ephesians 6:10—“Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**”

2 Timothy 1:7—“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; **but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**”

2 Timothy 2:1—“Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**”

Conclusion

When it comes to the Gospel...REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED!

God's Mercy...God's Ministry...

God's Light...God's Power!