The Light of the Gospel

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

1. Intro
   1. Recap:
      1. The message is no longer veiled
      2. The message is obvious, and finished
      3. There is freedom in Christ
   2. The Light of the gospel is a light for all people, but it is clearly not received by all
   3. There is still wickedness in this world, and out light MUST shine!
2. Text
   1. Verse 1:
      1. We have this ministry by the MERCY of God
      2. Do not lose heart: a reminder, because sometimes we need to hear this reminder
   2. Verse 2
      1. God’s people are above reproach
      2. We are not manipulators of the gospel
   3. Verse 3-4
      1. The gospel is veiled…
         1. A veil is a covering that protects or conceals
         2. So the gospel (good news) is concealed from those who are perishing
         3. But how? The god os this world…
            1. Little g god…
            2. Not the LORD
            3. The enemy is not creative, but he is effective
      2. He has blinded the minds of believers
         1. To be “blinded by the light” or “snow blind” makes the most sense here
         2. When I see how the enemy works…he distracts and overwhelms
         3. Over stimulates… and we embrace it so many times.
   4. Verse 5
      1. What we proclaim: Jesus Christ
      2. HE ALONE is LORD
   5. Verse 6
      1. His light, shines from our hearts
      2. For all the world to see
3. Point
   1. The Light of the Gospel
      1. The light
         1. That appeared at creation
         2. That caused Moses to glow
         3. That guided God’s people and declared God’s presence
         4. That Jesus spoke about (let your light shine)
         5. That Jesus shown in the transfiguration
         6. IS THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL THAT PENETRATES THE DARKNESS
      2. The Gospel is the LIGHT that draws all people to the truth
      3. The light of the gospel cannot be overcome by darkness
      4. The light of the gospel can expose those places we have allowed to remain untouched.
      5. The light of the gospel is a powerful light!
   2. The darkness of depravity
      1. John 1:1-5 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life,[a] and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
      2. Darkness is the absence of light
         1. Where the light has yet to penetrate, there is darkness
         2. Where the enemy can keep the veil of deception and distraction securely on people, the darkness continues to win.
         3. But we know there is no victory in the darkness
         4. There is VICTORY OVER THE DARKNESS
   3. The Glory of God
      1. Think about this:
         1. If we believe in God…we have a start
         2. If we trust Christ as savior, we have hope
         3. If we live in the Spirit, we have victory
         4. If we walk in GRACE, we find his GLORY
      2. The Glory of God is on display for all to see, so the veil that causes blindness must be something other that ones inability to see:
         1. It must be the busyness we embrace
         2. It must be the trash we consume
         3. It must be the carnal nature that consumes our thoughts
      3. Contrast:
         1. Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things…
         2. The Glory of God is our highest possible concept
         3. So that means the GLORY of GOD is bigger than the deceitful heart of man
      4. You can stand in victory
4. Close
   1. John 8:12 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
   2. Matthew 5:14-16 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.