

## The Book of 2 Corinthians #8

### I. First, We Will Look at the First Two Verses

- A. V. 1 is another one of those bad chapter divisions- starts with “therefore”
  - 1. Continues digression of Paul defending his apostleship to Corinthians
  - 2. Defends himself against charge that he preaches a veiled gospel
- B. Can tell that Paul is continuing on from chapter 3 by using same words
  - 1. Veil, ministry, minds, glory, commend
- C. In verse 2 Paul again contrasts his ministry with false apostles (2:17)
  - 1. Doesn’t use trickery and doesn’t falsify the word of God
  - 2. “Word of God” can refer to either the law or the gospel

### II. Verses 3 and 4 Deal With the Gospel Being Hid or Veiled

- A. 3:18- we see with open face – but unbeliever’s face is veiled
- B. Verse 3 – those to whom gospel is hid are “lost” or “perishing”
  - 1. Greek word can mean “lost” “destroyed” or “perished”
  - 2. See this contrast in I Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15 and 2 Thess. 2:10
- C. In verse 4 Paul introduces a unique phrase “God of this world”
  - 1. Similar expressions found in John 12:31 and 14:30
    - a. Similar ideas found in Ephesians 2:2 and I John 5:19
  - 2. Controversial in early church -didn’t want Satan to have title of God
    - a. Thought this undermined scriptures which speak of Christ as God
      - 1. But Christ is called just “God” - Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8
  - 3. In parable of sower – Satan also seen as blinding minds
    - a. Matt. 13:19; Luke 8:12 – but can only do it with God’s permission
- D. Problem in blinding isn’t in the message – but in the receivers

### III. Blinding is Only Removed by the Light of the World

- A. Light shining in darkness can be related to three different things
  - 1. The creation account, Christ’s Coming, believer’s salvation
- B. First thing that we are told is that there is a state of darkness
  - 1. Creation (Gen. 1:2) Before Christ’s Coming (Jn. 1:4,5,9, Matt. 4:16)
  - 2. Heart of man before regeneration (Eph. 5:8; Col. 1:13)
- C. Then there must be prepatory work of the Spirit of God
  - 1. Creation(Gen.1:2) Before Christ (Lu.1:35) Regeneration(Jn. 3:8, 16:8)
- D. Then God will cause light to shine in midst of darkness
  - 1. Creation (Gen. 1:3) Christ (Jn 8:12, 9:5) Regeneration (v. 6)
- E. Problem in regeneration is people don’t want to receive light- Jn 3:19
- F. So it must be God Himself who comes to shine light of gospel
- G. This is great description of Paul’s own conversion (Acts 9:3 – 7)
  - 1. His first experience of God was a great light shining (9:3)
  - 2. Notice verse 8 - “His eyes were opened and he saw nothing”
    - a. Eyes opened usually means person sees something different
      - 1. Gen. 3:5, 7; 21:19; Num. 22:31; Ps. 119:18; Lu. 24:31
    - b. But Paul “sees nothing” eyes blinded from great light–Acts 22:11
      - 1. Eyes turned off from world- and only sees Christ – Matt. 17:8
- H. Now His commission is also ours –Turn people from darkness to light
  - 1. Acts 26:17, 18 – To do what happened to him- Open their eyes!
- I. Verse 7 - We can do it because it is not of us- but God’s power in us