

**“Be Not Weary!”**  
**2 Corinthians 4:1-6**

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - We Are Going To Begin:
  - A New Chapter In The Book Of 2 Corinthians:
    - So Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me:
      - To 2 Corinthians 4!
  - Where - After Spending Some Time:
    - Looking At The Glory Of The Gospel:
      - From 3:6-18 - Which Paul Describes As:
        - The “*New* Testament!”
  - He Looks Back At:
    - His Ministry / Service:
      - As A Preacher Of The Gospel!
        - When It Was God - According To 3:6 - “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament!”
2. And So - 4:1 Points Back To 3:6 - When He Writes:
  - “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, *we faint not*; / But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. / But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: / In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. / For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. / For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!”
    - The Key Statement In These Verses:
      - Is Found In 4:1 - “*We Faint Not!*”
        - Paul Understood That The Ministry Of The Gospel Was So Important - He Didn’t Want Anything To Get In Its Way!
  - 3. And This Needs To Be The Heart:
    - Of Every One Of Us:
      - When We Are Transformed By The Gospel:
        - In Our Own Lives!
          - Every Christian Has Been Given The Same Calling & The Same Commission!
            - To Shine The Light Of The Gospel To The Dark & Dying World Around Us!
    - And Even Though Sometimes:
      - It Is A Struggle To Do So:
        - By God’s Grace & Strength - We Need To Remember What Paul Wrote In:
          - Galatians 6:9 - “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!”
  - 4. Are You Growing Weary:
    - In Your Walk With The Lord?
      - Is It A Struggle For You:
        - To Pray / To Listen To His Word / To Obey & To Serve?
          - The Lord Wants To Encourage You This Morning!
            - “Be Not Weary In Well Doing!”
    - Are You Growing Weary:
      - In Your Witness For The Lord?
        - To Point Others To Jesus Christ?
          - Whether It Is Outside Of This Place / Or Even Within This Place?
      - If So - The Lord Wants To Encourage You This Morning!
        - “Be Not Weary In Well Doing!”
    - Because - You Have Some:
      1. **Great Motivations:**
        - In Serving The Lord!
          - Great Motivations! Which We Find In:
            - 4:1-2 - “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; / But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;

- but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God!"
  - Again - The Key Statement Paul Makes Is:
    - At The End Of 4:1 - "***We Faint Not!***"
      - The Apostle Paul Was A Driven Man!
  - Now - What Is It That Gave The Apostle Paul Such Drive & Motivation?
    - To Keep Witnessing For The Lord:
      - No Matter What Kind Of Obstacle He Faced?
        - 3 Great Motivations!
- First - The Motivation Of:
  - His Ministry For The Lord!
    - 4:1 - "Therefore Seeing We Have This Ministry!"
      - What "Ministry" Is Paul Talking About?
        - Looking Back Again To 3:6 - It Was The "Ministry" Of The "New Testament!" / The Ministry Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
    - The Apostle Paul Never Got Over:
      - The Gospel - And How Jesus Christ:
        - Chose ***Him*** & Called ***Him*** To Be God's Child & His Servant!
          - Even After All The Things Paul Had Done Against The Lord & His People!
    - And So - Paul Considered His Ministry:
      - To Be The ***Greatest Privilege*** In All The World!
        - He Explained This To Timothy In 1 Timothy 1:12-13 - "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; / Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious!"
      - Since God Had Called Him To Be His Servant:
        - He Would Not & He Could Not:
          - Stoop – To Even Be A King!
    - And This Great Privilege:
      - Is What Motivated Him To "Keep On Keeping On!" – In The Words Of Verse 1 – "We Faint Not!"
- A Second Motivation For Paul Was:
  - His Mercy From The Lord!
    - 4:1 - "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not!"
  - Paul Never Got Over:
    - The Amazing Grace:
      - Of The Gospel - Which Gave Him New Life & New Light & True Liberty In Jesus Christ!
  - And This Mercy Was Extended To Him:
    - Personally! He Shows This Again To Timothy:
      - In 1 Timothy 1:15-16 - "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. / Howbeit for this cause ***I obtained mercy!***"
  - The Mercy Of God:
    - Motivated Him To "Faint Not!"
      - And To Keep Persuading Others:
        - "Come, Every Soul By Sin Oppressed, There's Mercy With The Lord!"
- A Third Motivation For Paul Was:
  - His Manifestation Of The Lord!
    - 4:2 - "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God!"
      - Because Of God's Grace & Mercy:
  - Paul "Renounced" Some Things:
    - In His Ministry For The Lord!
      - "The Hidden Things Of Dishonesty!"
        - Things That Are Shameful & Disgraceful!
    - So - Instead Of Being Secretive & Manipulative, Like So Many Others (Then & Today):
      - For Popularity Or For Personal Gain!
        - He Was Going To Stick With The Truth – No Matter What It Cost!
  - He Was Not Going To:
    - Hide The Truth About Himself!
      - 4:2 - "Not Walking In Craftiness!"

- Instead - Paul Sought To Be:
  - Open & Honest & Humble:
    - In His Ministry - So That The Truth Of The Lord Could Shine Through Him!
- He Was Not Going To:
  - Hide The Truth About God & His Word!
    - 4:2 - “Nor Handling The Word Of God Deceitfully!”
  - **IE:** This Is What False Teachers & Preachers Have Always Done! Making “Spiritual Mud!” Not Declaring “All The Counsel Of God” - But Cherry Picking Truths & Causing Doubt & Confusion Among God’s People! Misinterpreting / Misusing / Watering Down The Truth!
    - So, Instead - Paul Sought To Always “Rightly Divide The Word Of Truth!”
- Paul Knew That:
  - Only “The Manifestation Of The Truth” To “Every Man’s Conscience” Has The Potential:
    - To Make Them Free!
      - Jesus - John 8:32 - “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!”
- When You Grow Weary:
  - In Your Own Service & Ministry For The Lord:
    - Remember That You Have The Same:
      - Great Motivations That Paul Had!
  - You Too:
    - Have Personally Received A Ministry From The Lord!
      - And It Is The Greatest Privilege In All The World!
  - You Too:
    - Have Personally Received The Mercies Of The Lord!
      - So - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!” (Matthew 10:8)
  - You Too:
    - Have A Responsibility To Manifest The Lord And His Truth!
      - Do Not Hide Him & All That He Has Done For You!
- So - Do Not Faint In Your Service For The Lord!
  - “Be Not Weary In Well Doing!”
    - Let These Things Continue To Motivate You!
      - But Also - In Addition To These Motivations:
        - Remember That There Is Still A:

## 2. **Great Mission!**

- For Serving The Lord!
  - A Great Mission! Which We Find In:
    - 4:3-4 - Where Paul Explains That Even Though He Is Not in The Business Of Hiding The Truth About God
    - “**But if** our gospel be hid – [Which It Is Not] – **But if** our gospel be hid – [Or Veiled] – It is hid to them that are lost: / In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them!”
      - Here - Paul Gives Us Another Reason Why:
        - We Should “Not Faint” In Our Service For The Lord!
        - It Is Because - For Many:
- The Gospel Is Still Hidden!
  - This Is What Paul Describes:
    - In 4:3 - “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost – [Or Are Perishing]!”
    - So:
  - If The Gospel Is Still Hidden From Someone:
    - The Problem Is Not In The Message:
      - Of the Gospel!
        - Because The Message Itself Is Clear!
      - Romans 10:9 - “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!”
    - If The Gospel Is Still Hidden From Someone:
      - The Problem Is Not With The Messenger:
        - Of The Gospel!
          - Because A Faithful Messenger, Like Paul, Is Not In The Business Of Hiding The Truth!

- If The Gospel Is Still Hidden From Someone:
  - The Problem Is With That Person!
    - If A Person Is “Lost” - What Is His Problem?
      - Philip Hughes - “The *Unveiled Gospel*, Openly Proclaimed, Has Been Veiled *To* Them Because It Is Veiled *In* Them!”
  - There Is A Spiritual Veil Over:
    - Their Minds & Their Hearts! Just Like The Children Of Israel In 3:14-15!
    - Paul Describes Everyone Who Is Lost - In Ephesians 4:18 - As “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart!”
- What Do They Need? What Did You Need?
  - For The Veil To Be Removed!
    - And For The Light Of The Gospel To Light Up Your Mind / Your Heart / Your Will / And Your Life!
- So - What Can We Do?
  - Keep Shining The Light Of Christ & His Gospel:
    - Into The Deepest & Darkest Recesses:
      - Of This World!
        - It Is The Only Thing That Can Penetrate & Pierce Through Their Veil!
    - And This Is Our Mission:
      - As Long As There Are Those Who Are:
        - “Lost” & Blind & Perishing!
        - Also Because:
- The Gospel Is Still Hindered!
  - This Is What Paul Describes:
    - In 4:4 - “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not!”
      - We Find That There Is Something Else:
        - Going On In The Hearts & Minds Of Those Who Are Lost!
  - The Devil Himself:
    - Who Is Called Here “The God Of This World!”
      - Or - “Of This Age!”
        - Is Using *His* Darkness To Keep Unbelievers In *Their* Darkness!
        - He Is The *Blind* Leading The *Blind*!
    - And What Will Happen To Them Both?
      - John 15:14 - “And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch!”
  - And This Is Exactly What The Devil Is After!
    - He Is Using All The Power He Has:
      - To Prevent His Subjects From Seeing:
        - God’s Light!
    - **IE:** Have You Ever Seen One Of Those Pictures Of The World At Night - From The International Space Station? All The Major Countries & Cities Are Lit Up By Light! But There Is One Country That Is Surrounded By Light, But Remains In Nearly Total Darkness! What Country? North Korea! And Their Wicked Leader - Like The Devil Himself - Uses Whatever Power He Has To Keep His Own People In The Dark! Literally & Even Spiritually!
  - So - What Can We Do?
    - When The Darkness Of A Sinner’s Heart Is So Dark!
      - What Can We Do?
        - When The Power Of The Devil Seems So Strong!
    - We Need To Pray!
      - And Pray That The Lord Would:
        - “Open Their Eyes!”
    - I Can’t Open Their Eyes!
      - You Can’t Open Their Eyes!
        - This Church Can’t Open Their Eyes!
          - Not Even Billy Graham Could Open Their Eyes!
        - Only The Lord Can Open Their Eyes! Only The Lord Has The Power - “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins!” (Acts 26:18)

- And So - This Is Our Mission!
  - To Pray For God To “Open The Eyes” Of The Blind!
    - After All - Isn’t This One Of Jesus’ Specialties? Just Look In The Gospels!
    - Also - Because:
- The Gospel Is Still Their Only Hope!
  - Why Is The Devil Working So Hard:
    - To Keep Sinners & Unbelievers In The Dark?
      - 4:4b - “Lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them!”
  - This Is Why We Must Not Be Weary In Well Doing!
    - Thy Is Why We Must Not Faint:
      - In Our Great Mission!
        - Because The Devil Himself Is “Pulling Out All The Stops” To Hinder The “Light Of The Gospel!”
  - But We Must Not Let That Discourage Us Either!
    - Need To Remember - 1 John 4:4 - “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world!”
      - We Find Another Reason To Not Give Up In Our Service For The Lord In 4:5-6:
        - Because Of The:

### 3. **Great Miracles!**

- You Personally Experienced From The Lord!
  - 4:5-6 - “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. / For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!”
    - When You Remember The Great Miracles:
      - That God Did For You – You Will Never Want To Stop Telling Others About Them!
      - And About Him!
        - After All:
  - He **Saved** You!
    - And That’s A Miracle!
    - This Is Why Paul Says In 4:5a:
      - “For We Preach Not Ourselves, But Christ Jesus The Lord – Or – Christ Jesus *As* Lord!”
        - When You Are **Saved** By Jesus:
          - As Your **Savior**!
        - You Will **Submit** To Jesus:
          - As Your **Lord**!
    - And You Will Proclaim & Promote **Him** – With Your Life:
      - And Not Just Yourself!
        - Echoing The Words Of John The Baptist In John 3:30 - “He must increase, but I must decrease!”
          - Another Miracle:
  - He **Sent** You!
    - He Turned You From A Life Of Sinfulness & Selfishness:
      - To A Life Of Service & Selflessness!
        - And So Paul Preached “Ourselves Your Servants For Jesus’ Sake!”
          - All He Wanted To Do Was To Follow The Wishes Of Jesus For The Rest Of His Life!
    - If This Is Your Desire As Well:
      - It’s A Miracle!
        - And It Will Help You To Keep Serving The Lord No Matter What!
          - And The Greatest Miracle Of All:
            - He **Shined** In Your Heart!
    - 4:6 - “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, **hath shined in our hearts**, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!”
      - This Is The Miracle The World Needs!
        - This Is Miracle That You Receive When You Are Saved!
  - God Alone Had The Power:

- To Create Light Into This Universe!
  - And He Did So With Just The Sound Of His Voice!
  - And So - We Also Know That:
- God Alone Has The Power:
  - To Pierce Through The Darkness Of This World:
    - With The Brightness Of His Light!
- God Alone Has The Power:
  - To Penetrate The Hardness Of Your Heart:
    - With The Warmth Of His Light!
- God Alone Has The Power:
  - To Heal Your Blindness & Remove The Veil:
    - So You Can See His Light!
- God Alone Has The Power:
  - To Give You The Gift Of Spiritual Sight!
    - So Now You Can See “The Light Of the Knowledge Of The Glory Of God In The Face Of Jesus Christ!”
- Have You Experienced This Miracle In Your Life?
  - If Not:
    - You Can! Look To & Trust In Jesus Today!
      - “O soul, are you weary and troubled? / No light in the darkness you see? / There’s light for a look at the Savior, / And life more abundant and free!”
  - If So:
    - Then Do Not Faint / Do Not Grow Weary:
      - In Your Daily Walk With & Your Daily Work / Service For The Lord!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - When You Face Discouragement:
  - Even To The Point Of Growing Weary:
    - And Wanting To Give Up:
      - In Your Walk With & Your Work For The Lord:
        - Remember “The Light Of The Glorious Gospel Of Christ!”
  - This Light:
    - Is The Greatest Miracle:
      - That Could Ever Happen To You!
        - You Were Blind In Your Sin & You Were Blinded By Satan!
        - But Now - You Can See!
  - The “Light Of The Glorious Gospel Of Christ” Is:
    - Now Your Greatest Mission!
      - Because So Many Remain In Darkness!
        - Keep Proclaiming That:
          - “The Light Of The World Is Jesus!”
        - And Keep Praying That:
          - The Lord Would Open Their Eyes!
          - And Now:
    - The “Light Of The Glorious Gospel Of Christ” Is:
      - Your Greatest Motivation!
        - So - “Let Us Not Grow Weary In The Work Of Love!”

\* “Send The Light!”

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Stephen Elmer, Pastor**  
 4245 North 200 West  
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
 317-326-2362  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)