

2nd Corinthians Chapter 4

Sep 23, 2026

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul expounds on the character of his ministry and the power of the Gospel. He discusses the illuminating work of God in our hearts, the paradox of carrying the treasure of the Gospel in jars of clay, and the eternal perspective on our momentary afflictions.

Verses 1–2 – Persevering in Ministry

Paul refuses to lose heart because the ministry is a mercy from God. He rejects secret, shameful, or deceptive tactics, choosing transparent proclamation so that every conscience can weigh his words before God.

Verses 3–4 – The Veiled Gospel and the god of this age

If the good news seems hidden, the problem lies with those “perishing.” The devil—“the god of this age”—has blinded minds so they cannot see the radiant glory of Christ, who perfectly mirrors God.

Verses 5–6 – The Light of Christ Shines

The message is not self-promotion: “Jesus Christ as Lord” is the sermon, and apostles are simply servants. The same God who once said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” now turns on the light in human hearts so people can behold divine glory in the face of Jesus.

Verses 7–12 – Treasure in Jars of Clay, Suffering but Sustained

The priceless gospel is housed in fragile clay pots—weak human bodies—so observers know the power is God’s. Pressures, persecutions, and knockdowns come, yet the messengers endure. Jesus’ death is carried in them so Jesus’ life can be displayed to others.

Verses 13–15 – Faith’s Voice and Spreading Grace

Quoting Psalms 116: 10; Paul insists that believing leads to speaking. Confidence in God’s raising power fuels bold testimony, causing grace to spill over to more people and multiplying thanksgiving to God.

Verses 16–18 – Outer Decay, Inner Renewal, Eternal Focus

Physical strength fades, but the inner person is renewed daily. Current pains are “light and momentary” compared with the eternal glory they are producing. Eyes therefore lock onto the unseen and lasting, not the visible and temporary.