



## PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

## SUMMARY

Paul was radically transformed when he encountered the blinding light and voice of Christ. His ministry was shaped by what he experienced so that he would, in turn, shine the light of Christ by living and proclaiming the gospel. Like Paul, we have the same calling and opportunity as Christ's "light-bearers". To do this we must overcome the dimming dangers we all face from internal and external threats.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think false teachers in Paul's day (or today) would want people to believe that obedience to the Mosaic Law was necessary in order to be saved? In your opinion, why is this false teaching extremely dangerous?
2. What role(s) does the Holy Spirit play in the New Covenant in bringing a person to faith in Jesus?
3. Paul (in Romans) and the writer of Hebrews provide a more comprehensive comparison of the Old and New Covenants. Read Hebrews 7:18-23; 9:11-15; 10:1-4, and 11-23, as well as Romans 3:10-20, 7:7-13, and 11:11-12. What arguments (in addition to those made by Paul in 2nd Corinthians 3) are made to show that the New Covenant is far better than the Old Covenant?
4. What attributes of the New Covenant are you most thankful for? Why?
5. Paul called the Old Covenant a "*ministry of death*" and a "*ministry of condemnation*", and said it "*kills*". Does this make the Law evil? Why or why not? See Romans 7:7-12.
6. What applications do you see for yourself (today) in this section of Scripture?

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