**Gospel-Centered Ministry: Serving In Weakness And Power**

SESSION #4 - October 11th, 2015

**2 CORINTHIANS 4 - Treasures in Jars of Clay**

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2**

*"Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God."*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:6,9,11-12,18

"For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am..."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-10a

"Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes by faith." - ROMANS 1:5

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." - 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-14

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4**

*"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" - JOHN 14:6

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." - LUKE 19:10

"Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out." - JOHN 12:31

"I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." - JOHN 14:30-31

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." - EPHESIANS 2:1-2

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God..."

- EPHESIANS 6:12

"We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one." - 1 JOHN 5:19

"The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will be all yours.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" - LUKE 4:5-8

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." - PSALM 24:1

"This is the verdict: Light has come into this world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it might be seen plain that what he has done has been done through God." - JOHN 3:19-21

"Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." - 2 TIMOTHY 2:25-26

ACTS 9:1-19

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-6**

*"For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ."*

"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men" If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

- GALATIANS 1:10

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning - the first day." - GENESIS 1:3-5

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible." - EPHESIANS 5:8-14a

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." - 1 JOHN 1:5-7

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-9**

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."*

"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."

- PSALM 130:13-14

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" - MARK 8:36-37

"On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." - JOHN 14:20

Gideon - JUDGES 7

Elijah on Mount Carmel - 1 KINGS 18:19

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" - JOHN 8:12

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and hide it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." - MATTHEW 5:14-16

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." - 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..."

- 2 TIMOTHY 3:12

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - JOHN 16:33

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:10-12**

*"We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you."*

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." - PHILIPPIANS 3:10

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-15**

*"It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit offaith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."*

"I believed; therefore I said, 'I am greatly afflicted.'" - PSALM 116:10

"And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age." - MATTHEW 28:20

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." - ROMANS 8:28

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." - 1 JOHN 4:4

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him." - ACTS 9:3

"These sufferings of ours are for your benefit. And the more of you who are won to Christ, the more there are to thank him for his great kindness, and the more the Lord is glorified." - 2 CORINTHIANS 4:15 (Living Bible Paraphrase)

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18**

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

1 CORINTHIANS 15

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

- ROMANS 8:27

"By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who was invisible." - HEBREWS 11:27

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

- HEBREWS 11:1