

Treasures in Jars of Clay
2 Cor. 4:5-12

“Let me ask you lovingly and earnestly, whom are you proclaiming, not only by speech but by living? Let us remind ourselves of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; this glory must shine through the Christian, his ministry must be communicated so that we may make manifest in these mortal bodies of ours the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, there is a life to be revealed—not just a system of theology, but a life, a character, a principle action—through the Christian church which is the only hope amid the darkness, immorality, and spiritual bankruptcy of the world today.” Redpath

- I. We are commanded to put on the full armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes. The reason we are told this, is because Satan is very adept at getting believers and unbelievers to believe his lies about life. He blinds the unsaved by getting them to believe that his lies about life are truth and that the truth of the gospel is a lie. He also loves to get believers all mixed up in what they believe to keep us off guard, to keep us from standing firm in the faith, to keep us from being strong and courageous, and to keep us from doing everything in love. The only way to counter him is with the truth of God’s word.

2 Cor. 4:4-5

Eph. 6:11

1 Cor. 16:13

2 Cor. 1:22-23

2 Peter 1:3-6

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 *14And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

- II. God has revealed to us the truth of the gospel and it has set us free. The knowledge we've been given through Jesus Christ has illuminated our hearts to know and understand truth. It shines in deceitfully wicked hearts to set us free from the darkness of sin and Satan's lies. *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery"* (Gal. 5:1).

2 Cor. 4:6

John 8:32

Eph. 5:8-16

Eph. 5:13-14

Eph. 5:11

Gal. 5:1

Gal. 5:17

John 3:19-20 *And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed....*

- III. The treasure we carry about in our bodies every second of the day is the power of the gospel. It is revealed to those around us by changed lives for Christ. We carry the gospel message, his death, burial and resurrection, to bring light into the darkness. Satan can't stop Christ's witness through us no matter what he might throw at us, unless we let him.

2 Cor. 4:7-12

Judges 7:20

2 Cor. 12:9

1 Jn. 4:4 *But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.*

"Is the life of Christ manifest in you day by day in your contact with others" If it is not, it is because Jesus is not yet glorified." Redpath

"God did that which was almost ludicrous. Putting the most valuable treasure in a common vessel in order that man would not become enamored of the vessel, but would be enamored only of the contents, only of God and the work of God through the vessel. 'That the glory of the excellency might be of God, not of us.'" Chuck Smith