

## 2 Corinthians 4

1. If God does not prepare the hearts of the people, will they be open to listening to God's Word?

-No.

2. When we look at all that is wrong in life, is it easy to become discouraged?

-Yes.

3. When we look at people and their problems, is it easy to become discouraged?

-Yes.

4. In 2 Corinthians 2:14, what was the sudden, big change in Paul?

-Instead of being discouraged, Paul became greatly encouraged.

5. Why was Paul suddenly greatly encouraged?

-Instead of thinking about his problems, Paul changed and began to think about God and God's work in his life.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:4-5

4-Such confidence we have through Christ before God.

5-Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

-Our confidence should be in Christ, and not in ourselves.

-Our competence should be in Christ, and not in ourselves.

-If we rely on our own strength and wisdom, then what are we doing?

-We are not depending on God.

-If we wait until we have enough of our own strength and wisdom, then what are we doing?

-We are not depending on God.

-We must depend only on the strength and wisdom of God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:6

6-He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

-What is the new covenant or new agreement?

-The new covenant is that which Christ has given us, that is, that all who believe are saved from our sins by Christ's death.

-As the Lord Jesus said: "This cup is the new covenant

in my blood.” (1 Co 11:25).

-What is the letter?

-The letter is the laws of Moses.

-How does the letter kill?

-The letter or the laws of Moses kill because no one can obey all of God’s laws, and therefore, must die.

-How does the Spirit give life?

-The Spirit of Christ not only obeyed all of the laws, but also died for our sins that we might live.

-Who has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-All Christians are ministers or pastors of the new covenant, teaching of how Christ died to save us.

-This is because it is not we who are competent, but Christ in us who is competent.

-If you think that you cannot teach about God, this is true.

-Yet, as Christians, it is the Lord Jesus in us who can teach if we allow Him to do so.

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 3:7-8

7-Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was,

8-will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?

-What is the ministry that brought death?

-The laws of Moses or the old covenant which God gave to Israel.

-How did the old covenant or agreement bring death?

-Because no one can perfectly obey all of God’s laws, and because God is holy, all sin must be paid for with death.

-What was the glory of the old covenant?

-We read this in Exodus 34:29-30:

29-When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.

30-When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

-The glory of the old covenant was in Moses' face after he had spoken with God.

-What does the glory of the old covenant teach us?

-That God is holy and without sin, and therefore, He must punish all sin with death.

-What is the glory of the new covenant?

-God the Holy Spirit who lives in all Christians.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:9

9-If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

-What is the ministry that brought condemnation?

-The old covenant or agreement.

-How did the old covenant bring condemnation?

-It teaches us that our God is so holy that we are not able to keep the old covenant.

-What is the ministry that brings righteousness?

-The new covenant with Christ.

-In the new covenant, Christ gives His righteousness to all who believe in His death alone for salvation.

-While the old covenant showed the glory of God, it is the new covenant with Christ that gives us His glory.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:10-11

10-For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.

11-And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

-The work of the old covenant was temporary.

-What is the work of the old covenant?

-To show us the glory of God, yet to also teach us that we cannot by ourselves have a part of His glory.

-What is the work of the new covenant?

-To simply give us the glory of God through Christ.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:12-13

12-Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

13-We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away.

-What was the purpose for the veil which Moses put over his face?

-To prevent Israel from seeing the glory of the old covenant which was passing away.

-As Christians in the new covenant, however, we not only see the glory, but we also through Christ own the glory of God which will never end.

-This is our hope, and this is our boldness.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:14-15

14-But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

15-Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

-These days, when the laws of Moses are read to the Jews in their synagogues, they still do not understand that the law was given to teach us of our need to be saved, and that only God can save us.

-Like Gentiles who also do not believe, this is like a veil over their hearts which only God can remove.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:16

16-But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

-If people, however, cry out to God, He will remove the veil from their hearts.

-This is why we must pray for non believers.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:17

17-Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

-When Moses went into the presence of God, he had freedom to take off the veil.

-Since all true Christians have the Holy Spirit, we also have freedom to be in the presence of God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3:18

18-And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

-All Christians no longer have a veil, but rather reflect as a mirror the glory of God.

-God is transforming or changing us to be more like Him.

-We must, however, allow God to change us by studying God's Word and talking to Him in all that we do.