

MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
II COR. 4:5-7

Introduction:

- A. We have a ministry.
 - 1. v1.
 - 2. The church has a ministry.

- B. We don't lose courage.
 - 1. "we faint not."
 - 2. faint = ekkakeo - to turn out a coward; to lose one's courage.

- C. We live properly.
 - 1. v2, Three things to do.
 - 2. Can't have an effective ministry if we aren't clean.

I. THE MESSAGE OF THE TRUE MINISTER. V5

- A. "For we preach not ourselves."
 - 1. We do not exalt ourselves.
 - 2. We did not die! We weren't crucified.

- B. "but Jesus Christ the Lord."
 - 1. Jesus, the named one.
 - 2. Christ, the anointed.

- C. "and our selves your servants for Jesus sake."
 - 1. Paul used the word constantly.
 - a. Used of one whose will is subject to another.
How can we best serve?
 - 2. It means, highest devotion.
 - 3. Our service is always for Jesus sake.
 - 4. Our work is specific.
 - 5. Servant for love's sake.

II. THE SOURCE OF THE TRUE MESSAGE. V6

- A. The God of light.
 - 1. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness."
 - 2. commanded = eipon - to speak definite words.
 - 3. shine = to see clearly, to beam upon.
 - 4. The creation God, the Genesis God.

- B. Has (God) shined in our hearts.
 - 1. "hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus."
 - a. shined = same as #3 above.
 - 2. "whose shining is to make known his glory as he revealed it in the face (features) of Jesus Christ."
 - 3. Moses face shone, men saw the ministration of death, we see Jesus' face, the shining of life.

III. THE MESSENGER OF THE TRUE MESSAGE. V7

- A. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels."
 - 1. treasure = thesauros - wealth, anything hid up.
 - 2. earthen = hostrakinos - earthenware, made of clay.

- B. "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
 - 1. excellency = hyperbole - throwing beyond, a surpassing, super eminence.
 - 2. power = dunamis - power in action.

- C. The weak vessel contains great power, power so great that the world may know what we are is of God and not because we are great.

- D. Physical power, Earl Campbell, mental.