

MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
II COR. 4:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Preachers of this age are ministers of the New Testament. v3:6.
 - 1. Able ministers. qualified.
 - 2. "not of the letter, but of the spirit."

- B. We are qualified messengers of God, whose message gives life to those who believe.
 - 1. 2:16.
 - 2. We are not priests of condemnation.

- C. This ministry presented stress.
 - 1. "and who is sufficient for these things?"
 - 2. Aaron was called, any error could condemn.

- D. God aided in this ministry.
 - 1. 3:5.
 - 2. Paul believed that God could enable him.

I. GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE A MINISTRY. V1

- A. "therefore seeing we have this ministry."
 - 1. "we faint not."
 - a. faint = ekkakeo - to lose one's courage.
 - 2. "as we have received mercy."

- B. Specifically the church was given the commission.
 - 1. Matt. 28:18-20.
 - 2. God calls men to preach and pastor.
 - 3. All have "this ministry."

II. THREE THINGS THAT DESTROY THE MINISTRY OF LIGHT. V2a

- A. "hidden things of dishonesty."

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1. renounced = apeipon - to speak off, disown.
2. hidden = kruptos - covered for purposes of concealment.
3. dishonesty = aischune - shame, a sense of disgrace.

B. "walking in craftiness."

1. walking = peripateo - to tread about.
2. craftiness = panourgia - shrewdness, unscrupulous conduct.

C. "handling the word of God deceitfully."

1. handling deceitfully = doloo - to deceive especially by a bait, hence to falsify, to corrupt.
2. Lost people can understand the Bible, who could be saved.

D. II Cor. 2:17.

1. Acts 17:10.

III. THE TRUE MINISTRY IS A MINISTRY OF TRUTH. U2b

A. "but by manifestation of the truth."

1. manifestation = phanerosis - a making known.
2. truth = aletheia - the veritable essence of a matter

B. The truth appeals to man's conscience.

1. "commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."
 - a. commending = sunistemi - to introduce to one's acquaintance and favorable notice, to represent as worthy.
 - b. conscience = suneidesis - a knowing of ones self, the being ones own witness, the testimony of one's own conduct.

IV. WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE RECEIVE THE MINISTRY OF LIGHT? U3

- A. Men are lost.
 - 1. v3.
 - 2. "them that are lost."

- B. "But if our gospel be hid."
 - 1. hid = druptos = covered for purposes of concealment.
 - 2. Matt. 13:14-16.

- C. "it is hid to them that are lost."
 - 1. There are none so blind as those who refuse to see.

V. THE ADVERSARY OF THE MINISTRY OF LIGHT. V4

- A. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."
 - 1. "the god of this world."
 - 2. Jesus is not Lord over Little Rock!
 - 3. blinded = tuphloo - to blind, from root, tuph - to burn, smoke; the dulling of the intellect.

- B. "lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
 - 1. light = photismos - a lighting, illumination, shining.
 - 2. glorious = dokses = of glory (same as v8)
 - 3. imgae = eikon - the pattern, the original.
 - 4. shine = augazo - to view in the clearest light, see distinctly, discern; of the sun to beam upon.

- C. The gospel is hid from lost because of the smoke screen that Satan has thrown up.
 - 1. If they want to see, they can.
 - 2. If they want to hear, they can.