

A Gracious Ministry

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

1. The Gracious Calling (v.1)

- “this ministry”—refers to the gospel of the New Covenant (see 3:7-11)
- Received through mercy. Paul is in touch with the mercy and grace underneath his calling (see I Tim. 1:12-17)
- This is how Paul sees his ministry.
- “The way you look at your ministry determines how you fulfill it.”
- How do you view your ministry/service?

2. The Godly Conduct (vv.2-6)

A. Not a Quitter:

- “we do not lose heart...”
- “lose heart – “to abandon”
- Faithfulness in adversity (1:8-11)

B. Not a Deceiver

- Not mishandling the Word of God “handling deceitfully” – mixing water with wine.
- Straight forward preaching; comfortable with being judged.
- Why then are there those who are not accepting Paul’s gospel?
 - “the god of this age” – the present world-view
 - “blinds minds” – Satan is intent on stopping God’s work

C. Not a Promoter

- Paul can’t make himself the center of his ministry.
- “their servant; but they’re not his Master”
- Why does Paul preach Jesus?
 - The light of God acts upon the soul the way light acted upon chaos in creation
 - Illumination as Conversion