2 Corinthians 4 study guide

2 Corinthians 4 is one of those dynamite chapters. At first glance it looks small and unassuming but when we release its power it is amazing. Read the chapter at least twice before looking at the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to begin the work in your heart that he longs to do.

Have you ever looked at someone else’s life and thought, they are amazing? If all that happened to me I’d probably be curled up somewhere in a corner. When I read about the apostle Paul I am amazed at how he remains focused on the eternal and not the immediate circumstance.

In verses 1-6 Paul discusses his ministry.

1. How did Paul say he came to have this ministry?

2. What was his ministry? What was he called to do?

3. How important is it to know specifically what God has called us to do?

4. Because Paul knew who he was following and why, what benefit was that to him? Vs. 1

5. When was the last time you were caught up in discouragement and despair? Could it have been avoided by focusing a bit more on specifically what God has called you to do and not quite so much on being sure everything gets done as you had it pictured?

6. Look at verse 2 and underline Paul’s choices that helped him stay focused. Then give a brief explanation of each.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.” 2 Cor. 4:2

7. Would making this decision as Paul did make a difference in our walk of faith? How?

8. What did Jesus say to the Pharisees, in Matthew 23:25?
9. In verses 3-4 Paul says that some people cannot see the truth that he is trying to share with them. Why can they not see?

10. Who has blinded them?

11. How is this happening to people even today?

Look at 2 Tim. 4:3-4

This is foolish, kind of like ignoring the men who are repairing the street. When they hold up a sign that says “Bridge out” I don’t care how big of a hurry you are in or what important event you think you need to rush to it is still best to heed the warning.

2 Tim. 4:3-4  For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

12. What does Jesus say about making this choice in Matthew 6:24? What is Jesus asking his followers to do?

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. Matt.6:24

13. What is the “treasure” that Paul is referring to in verse 7? Look back at verse 6 for the answer. God in his infinite love for us has given what to all believers?

14. The apostle Paul does not want to sugar coat or pretend for one second that the life of a follower of Christ is a life of ease. Look at verses 8-9; look up the words that are underlined below. In order to gain a greater understanding go online to www.biblestudytools.com put the scripture reference 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 in the search line, then choose the King James version. Right above the verse will be 3 boxes put a check mark in the box Strong’s Numbers, some of the words will turn blue. Hold your mouse over the word and click and the Strong’s Concordance will open up to that word and give you a great insight into its meaning. Write out the definitions.

   a. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

Looking up and defining these words should have helped you have a greater understanding and appreciation for verses 10-12.

15. The apostle Paul faced death for his belief in Jesus Christ almost daily. What kept him motivated and ready to continue sharing the gospel? Vs. 13-14
16. Paul is a wonderful example for all who truly desire to follow Christ and lead others to know Christ. Look at verse 15, what is his ultimate goal. Is that your goal for all you do?

17. Now to verse 16 and 17. These are two of the most extraordinary statements ever made. After all Paul has endured as he has shares the gospel each day, what is his God honoring response? Notice how he refers to the trials he endures. If you would like to see a short list of some of these trials read 2 Cor. 11:23-28.

18. Do you see why I said this is a dynamite chapter? Small, but powerful.

19. What is the ministry God has given you?

20. Have you made conscious choices that will enable you to carry out your ministry in a way that is pleasing to God? (as Paul had in verse 2)

21. How will you face the trials that will inevitably come your way? (as Paul in vs.8-9)

22. Could you say as Paul did in verse 15, “it is all for your sake…to the glory of God”?

23. In what way are you seeing the power of God revealed in your ministry?

24. If you are not seeing the power of God active in your life it could be there is some sin keeping you from experiencing this power but it also could be because you are not asking and believing that God will do great and mighty things with your surrendered heart and life. Why not talk to Him about this right now?