

The Case of the Glorious Gospel

October 7, 2019

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But 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. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

From the Introduction:

The gospel message is one of illumination, bringing the light of Christ into a dark and dying world.

1) The sinner is _____.

“¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.” (John 3:19–20, ESV)

- a) To the _____, the gospel is hidden in darkness.
- b) The light of its truth is lost to their _____.

2) The truth is _____.

“¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”” (John 8:12, ESV)

- a) To the _____, the gospel is revealed in light.
- b) The light of its truth illuminates us to full _____.

3) The Gospel _____.

“²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”” (John 3:21, ESV)

- a) To all who _____, the gospel is the glory of God.
- b) The light of its truth is the only means of _____ for all.

Remember:

“⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:4–5, ESV)

Reflect:

“If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe in, but yourself.” – St. Augustine

Seek:

- 1) At some point in our lives we have all suffered from spiritual blindness. This is without question the state of all who reject a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Take a few moments to think back to the day when Christ stepped into your life and dispelled the darkness. Share a summary of that experience with the group.

Share:

- 1) John 8:12 states, “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” What does it mean to you to have “the light of life” in your life? How does God’s word bring the truth of the gospel to life for you?

Serve:

- 1) This week, Paul has shown us the importance of sharing the light of the gospel message to a world lost in darkness. In what ways might you share your light with others in the week ahead? How can you do so apart from quoting scripture? What action can you take personally and relationally to reveal God’s light of truth to others?

Pray:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to use you to shed God’s gospel light into the lives of others.