

## IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST

### 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1 – 6



~ Our Spiritual Safari is leaping from one mountaintop to another in this second epistle the apostle Paul took the time to write to the church in Corinth — and to us. The Spirit of God lifted us to dizzying heights previously — but not quite like this. In his Gospel, John spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ when he said, “... *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not.*” So, how is it that light can shine in the darkness, yet those who are in darkness cannot comprehend it? Well, Paul is going to explain exactly how that works in this report; and he will do so by being extremely personal. Likewise, you’re going to find some extremely rare personal information about Andrew Hunt in this leg of our expedition, too.

Our first five reports from second Corinthians revealed God’s comfort for His saints; and, thankfully, we’re not finished being comforted yet. Chapter one brought us God’s comfort in the Lord’s plan and purpose for our life. Chapter two brought us comfort in restoring a sinning saint. In chapter three, we learned of God’s glorious comfort in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ; and that was certainly an all-time high for the serious student of Scripture. This chapter will show us God’s comfort in the ministry of *SUFFERING* for Christ. Friends, we’re going to a stratosphere so high today you’ll need an oxygen mask to make it out of this report alive. The Lord Jesus told us to “*come up higher*” — so, that’s exactly what we’re going to do....

***<sup>1</sup> Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;***

~ The ministry Christ has given us is beyond proper articulation. There is simply *NO WAY* man worked this all out in his own little mind — impossible. I, honestly — because I always am honest with you readers — have no earthly idea why God let me in His ministry; except that I read here where

Paul says, “.... *we have received mercy.*” Fortunately for me, God sees I need a *WHOLE LOT* of mercy; and He has been abundantly rich giving it to me. Only by the mercy of God Himself has He permitted me to participate in His so-called Spiritual Safari, which has been going on for a *LONG* time now, as most of you know. I can assure you that mercy is the reason I am still around – and I haven’t fainted yet.

I have a feeling many of you readers see me as lonely and pathetic with nothing else to do except attack other beliefs — and write these ridiculously long essays; some of which are five thousand words regarding a single verse! Well, I have never been more comforted or more surrounded by wonderful Bible believing, God-fearing people than I am right now as I edit this report and you read. Even in the midst of crushing poverty and dire circumstances in my own life, God has placed me in a position that, quite frankly, I never thought was possible. I won’t say I never get discouraged; but if I were to complain too loudly at this point in my ministry, I would simply be disingenuous.

I am *WELL* schooled in just about every religion on the face of this earth, friends. Some religions are so fascinating that one can easily be taken in or misled by them. Thank God He has held me and hasn’t allowed that to happen – but – either way, the simply distinct difference between *EVERY* major religion and the Gospel of the grace of God, is that every other religion says, “*DO*” – Christianity says, “*Done.*” See, God has done something for me – and for *YOU*, my friends. All we have to do is believe Him and accept salvation. That’s the *ONLY* approach we have to the True and Living God – there is simply no other way. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

All religions of the world have methods, rules, activities, and rituals that *MUST* be followed in order for one to be “*saved.*” Candidly, it’s rather amusing to study other religions – in the light of Scriptural truth. I have seen cults claim there are four things one must do to be saved; another says there are seven things one must do to be saved – and yet another cult has ten commandments that *must* be kept in order for a person to be saved. Of course, they aren’t the Ten Commandments found in the Bible, though. I disagree with every single one of them on every single point they

make. They all claim “*faith*” but they *DON’T* mean faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; no, their phony bologna religions are anything *BUT* faith in Christ. They regard the death of Christ two thousand plus years ago as a common historical fact. Well, friends, you may as well simply believe God so loved the world that George Washington crossed the Delaware River! If you don’t believe Jesus died for our *sins*, then you have faith in the wrong thing – period. That simplicity is so important to understand I just cannot state it enough times to be satisfactory to myself – it is *ALL*-important.

The false religions that say, “... *do something*” never seem to recognize they aren’t doing the things they say must be done to be saved; but, nevertheless, they are incessant in their fervor. Well, Paul had been a Pharisee’s Pharisee, under law, and he knew exactly what it meant to be a Hebrew of the Hebrew’s – and that’s an exact quote. There was a time when Paul thought he would be able to work out his own salvation with a set of rules and regulations. Then, one day, Paul met the Lord Jesus on the Damascus road, and he came to know Him! That’s when Paul could say he ‘*might be found in Christ not having his own righteousness.*’ When Paul stood in the presence of Christ, he quickly discovered he couldn’t attain to God in his own goodness. Without the righteousness of Christ, my friend, you are as lost and helpless as a person can possibly be. That was a new day for the apostle Paul, you may be absolutely sure; and when you reach that realization, it will be a new day for you, too....

***<sup>2</sup> But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.***

~ Okay, there’s something else here. We need the exclusive and unique mercy the love of God Personally provided for us in our Savior. However, God doesn’t save us by love – He saves us by grace; by grace are ye saved. We’re not going to talk about salvation anymore; we’re going up in understanding — into an emphasis on *LIVING* the Gospel. This is going to get ugly for some of us. We have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty. Trusting Christ is not some intellectual ascent of being able to convince ourselves Christ died on the cross. We have to actually trust and

*OBEY* – strongest emphasis on *OBEY*. That’s when Christ regenerates us, and we can actually be an example of the Gospel. Now, I know it’s difficult for most to see that in Andrew Hunt; but the reason you find me so unpleasant is because there are things in your life that are unpleasant to God. That’s how your projection works, my beloved. Make no mistake about it.

The man who actually believes God and teaches you the Word of God properly, correctly and completely, just happens to be required by God to be a holy man. If you want to be effective for Christ, you are going to *HAVE* to renounce the hidden things of dishonesty in your life. Many people think I am very unkind – I realize that – but I happen to love the Word of God and I have literally given my life to it. So, let’s try verse two again this way: “.... *but we have renounced disgraceful ways, secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness; methods and arts that men hide for shame! We refuse to deal in craftiness, trickery and cunning; nor do we adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God; but we state the truth openly, clearly and concisely, thereby commending ourselves in the sight and presence of God Almighty by manifestation of the truth to every man's conscience.*’ This may well be the most important passage in the entire Bible for a believer to live up to.

We are not to walk in hypocrisy, which is almost the norm for the so-called Christian today. We need to be real, and our behavior cannot contradict that which we preach or teach. Ask yourself: does my conduct meet the approval of the Lord Jesus Christ when the lights go out at night? I’m not saying any of us are perfect, but we must – *MUST* – walk in a way that is well-pleasing to God. So many people “*huckster*” the Word of God in the church today; and make merchandise of the Lord Jesus Christ. I realize this gets down to the nitty gritty – I hope it gets under your skin – in a bad way. Why do you even care about Christ, friends? Seriously – are you looking for money? Are you looking for a way out of a secular job? Preaching sure seems like an easy way to do that, doesn’t it? Many of you say you do it for the love of souls; well, really? I think most of you are just common liars when you say that. Let’s get real with God – and I had better examine my own heart in this connection, shouldn’t I?

Paul said, “... woe is me if I preach not the Gospel.” Most self-professing believers say things that are absolutely true about the Word of God, but whose life sends a mixed message to this lost and dying world. I can honestly say to you readers before God I pray about this *CONSTANTLY* in my own life. That prayer goes like this: “... oh, God, take this ministry from me if I cannot have a clear conscience.” Without the power of the Spirit of God — and Him speaking through me — quite frankly, I don’t want a ministry. The lack of sincerity I see in the church is a putrid hypocrisy. I don’t see any true commitment in the disconnected, fractured, reckless and irresponsible verse-grabbing that goes on. I see no conviction whatsoever in most people who say they love Christ.

Look, I’m not just talking to the preachers, because most of them stopped reading a *LONG* time ago. I *AM* talking to *YOU*, Christian friend. I suggest you make some notes if you want to be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. The most important part of the ministry is *NOT* the man in the pulpit — it is the man in the pew. That means *Y-O-U*. Training people for the work of the Lord is my business — but that *IN NO WAY* means a “leadership” role. When I see modern talk about leadership, I know that man is a fraud, a fake — and that he is as ignorant of the Word of God as a goat grazing grass on a hillside. I can equip you if *YOU* are sincere — but I will *NEVER* lead you anywhere — not even to Christ. Yes, you read that right, friends — read it again. I *PROMISE* you the Holy Spirit is speaking to you right now — *IF* you are listening. His sheep hear His voice.

Jesus died for His sheep — not for another Shepherd. The *ONLY* business of the Spiritual Safari is to teach you the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. That’s it. I’m not selling anything. There are no promotional gimmicks. What are you doing to support the Word of God being taught to the entire world today in an educated, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led manner? That’s what witnessing is — you can just write that down. Maybe your gift has been earning money you can use to help someone do their work? Maybe you are a man or woman of prayer. Maybe you have contact with people that others could never reach. There are some who wouldn’t read any of these reports unless you recommended it to them. Many — if not most — dismiss me when they see a report title come up. The rest don’t

read more than the first paragraph or two. Well, even so, I'll never run out of words – you can bet your life on that....

**<sup>3</sup> *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:***

**<sup>4</sup> *In whom Satan, the prince of this age, hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***

**<sup>5</sup> *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.***

**<sup>6</sup> *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.***

~ That's strong medicine. It's too potent for most people. The insincere and carnal Christian vomits this healing truth: Satan is the prince of this age and god of this world. The devil is running the programs of the world today right now as I type this report and you read; be not deceived. Satan runs the United Nations, the United States, all seven continents, the White House, Kremlin, the amusement parks, big business, and Hollywood. The devil has literally stolen the show in the moment. And Satan has masterfully blinded them which believe not.

Some will argue with me until they begin to turn blue – because this ultimately means *NOTHING* to them. The devil has blinded them – Paul says that – not me. Most so-called Christians allow — indeed, invite — the devil to deceive and lie to them. There was a miner deep in the earth when an explosion happened. Several days later, the rescue crew arrived and turned on the lights. The men shouted for joy – except one man who was staring right in the lamp, who asked, “... *why doesn't someone turn on the lights?*” Everyone was startled.

That's the condition of many, many people today; they're wondering why someone like me doesn't turn on the light for them. They cannot see the illuminating of the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord

Jesus Christ at all. They don't recognize it when they hear it, and they don't see it when they read it. Those are the ones who, invariably, say, "... *there are things in the Bible that I just cannot believe.*" I am challenged every day by such individuals.

I'm also accused of giving out a Gospel that's not true; in fact – I am *REGULARLY* called Satan himself! They tell me I am arrogant and ignorant – all I can do is laugh at them. I admit it: sometimes I am ugly rebuking those people – but I make no apologies for that. See, I've prayed for the words I say – every time. Make no mistake: those who reject sound doctrine have sin in their life that the Bible condemns, and *THEY REFUSE TO GIVE THAT SIN UP!* There is *NO OTHER* reason that *ANYONE* says those awful things to me. They don't want to believe the Gospel – and that is the sad and sordid condition of *MANY – MANY – MANY* people. The problem isn't with me, the problem is with their relationship to Christ.

Look, if you want to continue to indulge in your sin – that's alright by me; it's your problem – not mine. However, you still have an opportunity to turn to Christ today. I am not preaching about myself; to make that allegation doesn't make it so – it simply makes you a *L-I-A-R*. Only the Lord Jesus can save us. God created this universe at some point in time in the past of eternity; and God created *YOU*. If you reject Him, He will cast you into outer darkness – because that's where you are asking to go. God commanded the light to shine out of darkness, and it has shined in my heart; has it shined in yours? Paul unequivocally recognized his weakness – do you recognize yours? If not, God is going to point it out to you – soon and *VERY* soon ~

