

## THINGS NOT SEEN

### 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3 – 18



~ What evidence do you have in your life that proves you are a Christian, friends? What evidence should we be looking for in the lives of others when they profess to be a believer so we can rightly determine if they are a Christian or not? Jesus said, *“cast not your pearls before swine.”* The pearls are the truths of Scripture. So, how are we going to *“judge a righteous judgment”* in order to obey Jesus and determine who the pigs are so we don’t waste our time with them? The answers are going to be some very strong medicine for many readers; because in this day of comfort, ease and prosperity, the Biblical answer has been utterly lost.

When someone comes along who actually believes God — and is qualified to teach the Word of God properly, correctly and completely — and provides answers in sound doctrine, they can seem absolutely radical, unlovely, and uncompassionate; and most of you are going to find this report extreme and indifferent. I already know that — but — I am going to teach what the Bible teaches regarding these two questions in this report from our Spiritual Safari. It may be best if *NO ONE* reads this report — and I’m good with that....

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

***<sup>4</sup> In whom the god of this world 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.***

~ We’re in a section of Scripture that deals with God’s comfort for those who are suffering in the ministry of Christ. I’m sure those of you who actually do read these reports know that this part of the Bible is extremely dear to my heart, personally. These last two verses raise the question: what is it today that keeps people from believing in the Lord Jesus? Well, it is Satan who blinds their eyes — and we know that because we just read it from Paul the apostle. See, we’re completely helpless when we give out the

Word of God, friends. We have a very real enemy opposed to us who just happens to be very skilled at blinding the understanding of people. Many people read what I write, but they don't comprehend I am speaking in light of Christ; and Jesus only.

I also hear people say there are things in the Bible they simply can't accept. My experience has been that most of them don't have a comprehension problem – what they have is *SIN IN THEIR LIVES THAT THE BIBLE CONDEMNNS BUT THEY REFUSE TO GIVE UP*. I don't know who they think they are kidding – but they aren't kidding me. See, the moment a man reaches the place where he sees himself as a sinner – and he is prepared to renounce that sin and receive Christ as his Savior – then that man will be saved. The Word of God is a light; but some people have the light shining directly in their eyes and yet they still cannot see. Of course, they always like to blame it on the Bible – or on me – by saying they just don't understand all of this. Usually, they deteriorate into calling me names and judging that I am not saved and all that garbage. Well, it's hard for me to believe that *ANYONE* cannot understand the Bible because, my friends, if Andrew Curtis Hunt can understand something, then *ANYONE* can understand that thing; you can just write that down.

Instead of continuing in hypocrisy or wrongly blaming your inability to understand the Word of God – try confessing your sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, and see if that helps – because I happen to know that it will make all the difference in the world. As long as we retain the love of sins, and insist on deliberate unbelief as a result, we will *NEVER – EVER – NEVER* understand the Bible properly, correctly or completely – because that would be impossible. Why not turn to God and repent? That's when the Spirit of God will reveal all truth to us; and it will be His joy to show us the glory of the grace of God shining from the Face of the Lord Jesus Christ His Son. We just don't seem to hear much preaching like that anymore. We sure need more of it, my beloved readers. The Gospel is *ONLY* glorious when it reveals the glory of Christ — not the glory of you. Now, I understand this is exactly what men don't care to see or hear — and that's too bad — for 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.***

~ Paul takes us all the way back to creation in this passage; and we know that some colossal convulsion took place at creation because “*God created the earth*” – but then, the earth is immediately declared “*void and without form*” in the very next sentence. Friends, God never creates *ANYTHING* void and without form. After that, the Spirit of God “*brooded*” over the face of the waters. As we know, “*water*” always speaks of the Word of God in the Bible. The next thing that came along was light. Well, the Holy Spirit operates the same way presently. God broods over the soul and brings conviction designed to reveal Jesus Christ.

Satan has blinded so many people to this simple truth today that it is positively alarming. The depth of ignorance and utterly *STUPID* masses should scare the living daylights out of all believers. They are blinded to truth because their sins are a black veil over their face. Unless and until that veil is removed, they can never receive the robe of righteousness God has waiting for them. Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth and the light.*” Only the Spirit of God can ever say, “*let there be light.*” When we make the choice to accept Christ as our Savior, then God makes this truth and wisdom real in our hearts and in our lives. That’s precisely what Paul is talking about here....

***<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.***

~ This is one tremendous verse. You and I are the earthen vessels. This is a vivid picture of a broken earthen vessel; and that’s all we are, friends. Remember, Gideon had to break his earthen vessels for the light to shine out. That was how he defeated the Midianites. Go back and read that account in the Book of Judges. Gideon didn’t really do anything besides scare the Midianites half to death. Gideon’s little band of three hundred

men never fought a single soldier in the Midianite army. The “*treasure*” in the earthen vessel is the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; and, my friends, until you are broken, you can just *FORGET* about shining a light for Christ. Most people are too strong to be saved. God chooses the weak things. We don’t preach ourselves, and we don’t brag about casting out demons or speaking in tongues; we’re merely servants – that’s all.

Oh, how I wish I could better articulate myself and make the things of Christ real to you; but I realize my total and complete inadequacy. I can assure you I recognize my inabilities. If you get the impression that you are some great preacher – or if you desire to be some great Christian leader – then you have failed God, friends. The erroneous idea that we Christians are to just grin from ear to ear all the time with a toothpaste commercial quality smile is simply absurd. Smile? – No. *SUFFER!* Quite frankly, I don’t think we need 99.666% of the so called “*testimony*” that floats like feces in the water of social media – and that’s exactly what most of it is. Going around constantly pretending to be as jolly as Santa Claus or as exuberant as a used car salesman is ridiculous – and it isn’t reality, either. By that standard, we become nothing but a grinning goat or a smirking Cheshire cat.

When Paul sang praises at midnight, he did so with a bleeding back from being beaten. Paul knew what it meant to suffer for Christ, and he was a broken vessel as a result. The problem today is that *NO ONE* seems willing to suffer for Jesus. We hear incessant chatter about “*witnessing*” or “*leadership*” in this day in which we live; but what price are you willing to pay for the cause of Christ? We simply *CANNOT* have our own way and Christ’s way in our lives. If Christ is not glorified in the things we do, then there is simply no point in a “*testimony*.”

Again, I *KNOW* this is not popular Bible teaching; because the Word of God just isn’t popular when taught properly, correctly and completely. Places in Holy Writ such as this are where so many so-called Christian’s part ways with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where *YOU* are going to make up your mind if you’re going to follow Christ’s chariot – or if you are going to go your own way. Well, I’m teaching the *WHOLE* Bible; and I have already warned you not to read my reports; so, if you have read this far, may God richly bless you forevermore....

***<sup>8</sup> We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;***

***<sup>9</sup> Persecuted by the enemy, but not forsaken of God; cast down, but not destroyed;***

~ Those are tremendous words in verses eight and nine. Paul was smitten by the enemy, but the enemy couldn't destroy him completely. Paul said, at the end of his life, "... I finished my course." If you take a stand for the Lord Jesus Christ, I PROMISE you that it will often seem as if you are fighting a losing battle. Paul was strong *ONLY* in his weakness. Can you say that, my Christian friends? If we measured Paul by the modern church method and material statistics most preachers use today, Paul wouldn't even be in the canons of Scripture. If you put that little, crippled, weak, sickly Jew named Paul down next to the juggernaut of the iron heeled Roman Empire, he was less than nothing. Interestingly, his message literally withered the power in Rome.

*NOTHING* – and I do mean *NOTHING* – can stand up against the preaching of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. No man can answer the power of the Holy Spirit speaking to them through a man such as Paul the apostle. This glorious Gospel continues to topple thrones today as you read and as I type. See, God delivers the weak man in Christ again and again. It is what I call miraculously natural for God to do so, by the way.

In our day of compromise and expedience, where we measure a man by how popular he is and how many friends and followers he has, we don't seem to realize that the real test of a man is the type and number of enemies he has. Well, I have a lot of enemies; and, amazingly, they usually call themselves Christians. I love all my enemies — because I have the right ones — and I pride myself on who hates me; I wouldn't have this ministry any other way, either, you can be absolutely sure of that. See, it isn't me they hate; it's the message....

***<sup>10</sup> Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.***

***11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.***

***12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.***

***13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;***

***14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.***

***15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.***

***16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.***

***17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;***

***18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

~ Paul could say, "... I die daily." Paul also said, "... we're killed all the day long." He also said, "... we're appointed unto death." If you think Paul went trouncing around the Roman Empire smiling and acting like a movie star, then you just don't happen to understand the apostle Paul. Are you suffering? Is the Lord Jesus Christ of any value at all to you? These are some deep and wonderful truths we are uncovering in this section of Scripture. Our weakest personal moments are made the strongest when we stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and His cause. Paul could only speak this way because of a sincere faith, my friends.

Paul never considered death the end for him. He was able to look beyond death by beholding the Face of the Lord Jesus. Death is a mere experience

— such as being born, having a birthday, or getting married. As we move on in this Spiritual Safari, we're going to hear Paul tell us about the comfort he found in martyrdom for Christ's sake. If you didn't care for the tone of this report, then I urge you: never read another word I write; because God isn't speaking to you any longer – you're finished with Him – actually, He's finished with YOU. Sound arrogant? You bet your life it is. If you aren't prepared to lay down *your* life for Jesus, then you have no part in Him. Make a note of that – tape it to your nose if you have to so you'll see it in your vanity mirror.

If you want to be joined to the living Christ, then prepare for this world to die to you. God, Who raised Jesus, shall raise up us also by Jesus; and only those who suffer with Christ shall reign with Him. I just don't feel like I am stressing all of this adequately to you. I can only pray the Holy Spirit has made this real to someone today. As we grow in grace and wisdom, judgment and discernment concerning the Word of God, our bodies will begin to die off. We have a marvelous picture painted by Solomon in the last chapter of Ecclesiastes, too; may I suggest you turn over and read that entire chapter right now? At even tide, it shall be light. Our years are a simple tale being told; and they pass as a watch in the night. Our light affliction is but for a moment. The things you see when you look around are all passing away as fast as they possibly can. This world is changing very fast right now every day. Let's start looking for that city Whose Builder and Maker is God. Personally, I love Florida; but, friends, I am now looking for another city ~

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