

Eternal Perspective
Lesson #4
2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10

Paul wrote that the New Covenant is superior to that of Moses and brings life rather than death. The New Covenant is the ministry of the Spirit, and it is in Christ that the veil hiding God's glory has been taken away. (2 Corinthians 3:7-9, 16)

Don't Lose Heart! - 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

1. Paul continued with this truth using the word "*therefore*." Therefore, because of this, what was the reality in Paul's life? (2 Corinthians 4:1)

2. As a servant of the Lord, what did Paul say he did and did not do? (2 Corinthians 4:2)

What Paul said he did	What Paul said he did not do

3. If the gospel continues to be veiled, to whom did Paul say it was veiled?
(2 Corinthians 4:3)

4. What is Satan's role, who Paul refers to as "*the god of this age*," in this veiling?
(2 Corinthians 4:4)

5. Of what does Paul remind the Corinthians in defense of himself and his ministry? (2 Corinthians 4:5)
6. During creation, God said, *"Let light shine out of darkness."* Where else does God shine His light and why? (2 Corinthians 4:6)
7. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."* (2 Corinthians 4:7) Based on the context of what Paul said, what do you think he was referring to with:
 - *"This treasure"*
 - *"Jars of clay"*
 - Where does the *"treasure"* get its power?
8. How did Paul describe his life of ministry? (2 Corinthians 4:8, 9)
9. What was his perspective on death and life in verses 10-12?
10. Paul quoted Psalm 116:10a when he said, *"It is written: 'I believe; therefore I have spoken.'"* What was the psalmist experiencing when he wrote those words? (Psalm 116:1-10)
 - How did Paul relate to the psalmist? (2 Corinthians 4:13b)
11. Why did Paul say that he was confident? (2 Corinthians 4:14)

12. Why did he willingly endure this suffering? (2 Corinthians 4:15)
13. Paul continued by saying that no matter what suffering they had to endure, they would not lose heart. Using 2 Corinthians 4:16, 17:
- What did he say was happening to his body?
 - What about his spirit (inward)?
 - What was Paul's perspective on his troubles?
14. In verse 18, Paul gave an important and practical way to overcome the difficult circumstances of life. What attitude kept Paul going?

Life After Death - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

15. When it comes to a home, how would you describe living in a tent versus a building?

Tent	Building

- What was Paul's view of "tent" and "building?" (2 Corinthians 5:1)
16. Paul also referred to physical life as clothing. "Meanwhile," or while we are in this physical "tent," what did Paul say we do? (2 Corinthians 5:2a)
- Why? (2 Corinthians 5:2b, 3)

17. What else happens while we are in this “tent?” (2 Corinthians 5:4a)

- Why? (2 Corinthians 5:4b)

18. Paul said that God made us for this very purpose (eternal life). What has God done to assure us of that glorious future? (2 Corinthians 5:5)

19. In Paul's third “therefore” of this section, he gave insight as to how he was able to preach the gospel even while being threatened with death. Write in your own words what Paul was saying in each of the following verses:

- 2 Corinthians 5:6

- 2 Corinthians 5:7

- 2 Corinthians 5:8

- 2 Corinthians 5:9

20. Paul concluded this section with his teaching on the “Judgment Seat of Christ.” Context is very crucial to understanding what he was and was not saying.

- First, were Paul's audience believers or non-believers? (2 Corinthians 1:1b)

- What was Paul's topic in this section? (2 Corinthians 4:1, 5, 7 & 5:9)

21. Paul was not referring to salvation as he clearly states in Ephesians 2:8, 9 that salvation is by grace through faith which is a gift of God. Salvation is not based upon anything we do. With the context in mind, who did Paul say would appear before the judgment seat of Christ? (2 Corinthians 5:10)

- Why?

22. **Think about it!** While eternal life is a gift from God, as His children we are to obey Him and we will one day be held accountable for what we do in this life. How does that truth influence your life today?