

How Sin Blinds The Heart

2 Corinthians 4:1-4

Kent Bailey

In 2 Corinthians chapter 4 Paul reflects upon the glory of the New Testament of Christ. His enduring faith leads him to claim that he does not lose heart. His critics strongly desired that he become discouraged, viewing him as one being marked by weakness and his message being ineffective. However, in chapter 4 verses 1-4 we see a determination to affirm truth and daily live such due to the fact of the constant problem of Satan and sin.

Because of the mercy of God Paul did not lose heart, but rather he had renounced the disgraceful underhanded ways of Satan. He noted that if the gospel of Christ be hidden it is hidden from those who are lost in whom Satan, the false god of this world has caused a blindness of heart.

As we consider the awfulness of sin, the vast majority of individuals today do not understand the how and why of sin. Individuals become guilty of sin due to various reasons. Some are guilty of sin because they do not respect God's divine prohibitions; others sin due to rebellion; there are some who become guilty of sin because they are guilty of substitution regarding God's plan for humanity, still others sin by addition and subtraction with others seeking to be neutral. There are three contributing factors as to why individuals commit sin-- Infidelity, Apathy, and Worldliness. Because of these three venues the masses of humanity stand before God blinded to the reality of sin in their lives (Romans 3:11-23; 6:23).

As we consider our text we find that sin has a blinding influence on individuals. Regardless of the evidence, some individuals simply will not permit themselves to see reality as it relates to their lives and sinful behavior. Consider the following:

Sin blinds individuals to their condition before God In Romans 3:11 Paul, the apostle of Christ, stated, ***There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*** In the context of this passage, Paul gives a number of quotations from the Old Testament proving the sinfulness of the Jews. In spite of the fact that the Jews took pride in being great students of the scriptures, they still did not understand God's truth relating to sin and that which was required of them to receive remission of sins by obedience to the gospel of Christ. As we view modern day society, many react to the New Testament in the very same manner. They simply do not understand truth, thus they fail to face reality as to what they truly need. They have thus been blinded by sin. Our only hope is that of proper knowledge of truth followed by obedience to such (John 8:32; 1 Peter 1:22).

Sin blinds individuals to their future destiny in eternity John, the apostle of Christ, wrote about the future destiny of all accountable individual who go into eternity in an un-forgiven condition before God (Revelation 21:8). These individuals and others, even good moral people, who have un-forgiven sin in their lives stand separated from God, due to such sin and will be eternally lost in Hell (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:12-15).

Sin blinds individuals to the evil around them As Paul noted the Ephesians prior to their obedience to the gospel of Christ he stated: *Wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others* (Ephesians 2:2-3). Until individuals accept the New Testament as their standard they will never really comprehend the sin around them.

Sin blinds individuals to the beauty of Christ In Isaiah 53:4 Old Testament prophecy gave information that because of false preconceived ideas regarding the Messiah, Christ would be rejected. The same is true today concerning false presuppositions regarding the post-earthly ministry of Christ. (Continued on page 3)

PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK

This puzzle is taken from Hebrews 11:29-40

R	J	E	D	M	N	B	A	D	E	R	S	R	J	B
Z	I	E	S	O	O	L	A	E	W	M	R	E	S	A
P	N	G	S	I	I	U	G	R	O	Q	R	S	T	H
S	E	M	H	E	M	Y	T	D	A	I	N	U	R	A
G	A	E	N	T	P	O	G	H	C	K	O	R	O	R
S	O	S	H	T	E	N	R	H	S	D	E	R	N	T
A	E	A	I	S	I	O	O	P	N	A	D	E	G	O
W	O	A	T	K	V	R	U	H	N	V	E	C	S	R
N	N	X	H	S	C	I	C	S	C	I	G	T	T	T
S	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	N	D	K	I	E	U
P	E	A	C	E	H	A	N	L	J	E	P	O	H	R
S	A	M	U	E	L	P	F	E	E	U	S	N	P	E
N	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S	V	N	C	S	O	D
S	T	R	E	S	E	D	E	J	W	E	C	S	R	J
R	E	T	T	E	B	D	R	O	W	S	S	E	P	Z

1. They passed through what sea? Who drown?
2. What walls fell down? After how many days?
3. What harlot did not perish? How did she receive the spies?
4. The time did not allow to tell of whom? (7 answers)
5. They had subdued what? Wrought what? Obtained what? And stopped the what of lions?
6. They quenched the what of fire? They escaped the edge of the what? In weakness they were made what? They turned to flight the armies of the whom?
7. Others were what, not accepting deliverance? They looked to obtain a better what?
8. Some were stoned and others were what asunder?
9. They wandered about in what kind of skins?
10. They wandered in what four places of the earth? (only three are in the puzzle)
11. Yet they did not receive the what?
12. God has provided some what thing for us?

(Continued From Page 2)

Sin blinds individuals to the need of the new birth Forgiveness of sin is accomplished in the new birth. However, when individuals misunderstand the new birth regarding its essence, its blessings, and/or its conditions they do not see the importance of such (John 3:3-7).

Sin blinds individuals to the grace of God Fleshly Israel chose to close their eyes to the truth of God's grace and failed to see the need for their own salvation from sin. Many today do the same. They fail to see the unmerited favor of God shown them through the gospel of Christ whereas others draw false conclusions regarding the concept of grace even though they claim to believe in such. (Romans 11:7-8).

Sin blinds individuals to the things of the Lord The New Testament church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). It contains all those who are saved (Acts 2:47). Thus, when one is saved from past alien sins this same process brings one into the church of the Lord. Denominationalism denies such truth and keeps one in the bondage of sin.

Sin blinds individuals to the presence of Christ. The presence of Christ is seen in the word of Christ. Whenever one rejects the word of Christ by sinful living, they reject the presence of Christ (Revelation 3:18-19). May we never permit sin to control our lives, but rather, through obedience to the gospel of Christ and faithful living maintain our freedom from the staining influence of sin.

NEWS AND NOTES

"I was sick, and ye visited me..." (Matthew 25:36)

Mittie Stallings has moved to Room 704 at Ridgecrest to receive rehab.

Carolyn Harper will have surgery on March 16th.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates. Also be sure to read any thank you notes we have received that are on the board.

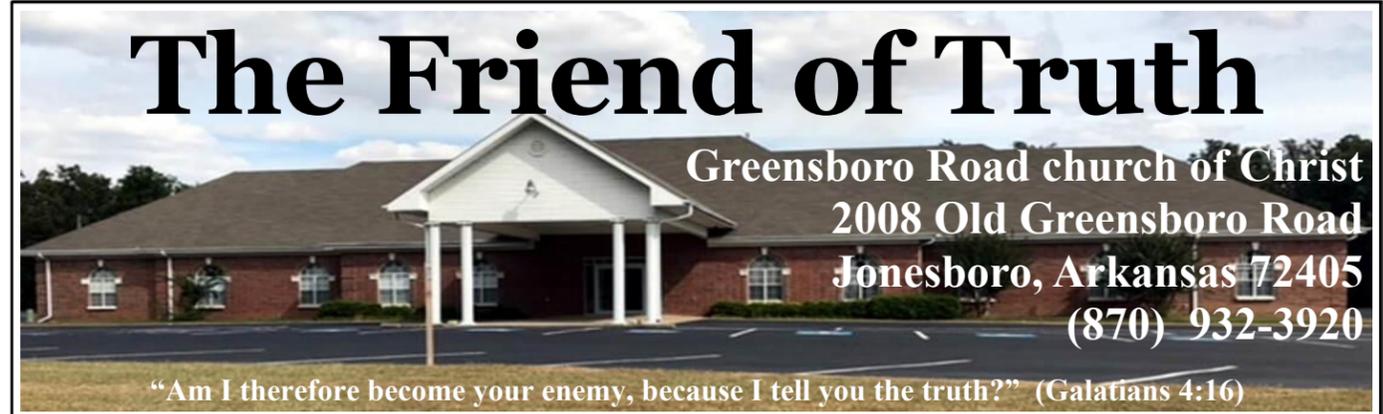
"Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26)

Ladies' Night Out will be March 10th at 6:30 in the basement.

Men's Breakfast will be March 14th at 8:00 in the basement.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:14)

Remember the calendar on the bulletin board next to the secretary's office. Each time you invite someone, give a tract or book to someone, or ask someone to study the Bible, please make a point of pinning the calendar as a way to help encourage us all to be evangelistic. Copies of Muscle and a Shovel are available in the library and also "Seven Steps in Reaching a Soul with Muscle and a Shovel."



The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ
2008 Old Greensboro Road
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405
(870) 932-3920

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

We are so very blessed in so many, many ways. As I write these lines I am seeing news reports of tornadoes leaving many (19 as I write) dead in my home state of Tennessee. Even though I am so thankful that my family escaped the brunt of the storms, my heart breaks for those who are suffering. Those who have lived in Jonesboro know too well what this is like after two such storms in the 60s and 70s. Pray for all these and count your blessing if you did not have family involved in this terrible storm.

We have so many who are sick with the flu. Each week we seem to have more and more who are trying to overcome the flu, colds, and sickness that has so many hurting and confined at home. Please keep all our sick ones in your prayers and remember them as we long for days soon when all this sickness will have passed.

We now have a number of tracts which have been displayed in the back wall of the auditorium. I hope you will take time to see what we have and the topics of discussion. These are there for everyone to take and give to a neighbor friend or family member as a way of introducing them to the church. There are a number of topics and these are not for display but for us to use in trying to open doors of opportunity for the good news of Jesus Christ to be spread. So please take as many as you will to give away. Keep some handy, so that when an opportunity arises you can be ready.

There are two tracts which we have designed for our own personal use. The first is "Who Are We?" This tract will help to introduce someone to the church of Christ. Many neighbors and friends do not know who the church is and this is a way of letting people know who the church of Christ is, especially the church at Greensboro Road. The second I would have you to notice is one titled "This Is Your Invitation To Visit The Greensboro Road church of Christ," which is a follow up to the first and lets someone know what to expect when they visit the church which meets here. These are a non-threatening way of sowing the seed with those we know and love. I hope you will pick up several and hand them out. Keep some on hand to have when a door of opportunity arises.

I hope to have a tract of the week each week for the weeks to come to use and highlight for us to use in reaching out into our community to reach lost souls and bring them to Jesus. May God bless us and keep us. If we cultivate, sow and water, God will give the increase.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

"Where there is no vision, the people perish...."
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020

Those Privileged To Serve

March 8, 2020

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

March 1, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: J. L. May
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson
Bible Reading: David Loggins
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Mitch Mosley
Hillard Holcomb Micah Tindall
Jeff Presley Robert Stephens
Jim Johnson Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Mike Felts
Closing Prayer: Coltin Powell
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder
Closing Prayer: Braden Hufstedler

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

(Wednesday, March 11)

Mike Felts

Sunday Bible Study	101
Sunday AM Worship	118
Sunday PM Worship	103
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$6401

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

"As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion."

Proverbs 11:22