

2 Corinthians 4

Chapter 4 of 13 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Light of the Gospel

- ¹ Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;
- ² 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.
- ³ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
- ⁶ 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.

Treasure in Jars of Clay

- ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
- ⁸ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
- ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 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.

Our Heavenly Dwelling

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.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Eternal — αἰώνιος (Aiōnios)

Eternal, everlasting

The Greek **aiōnios** (αἰώνιος) denotes eternal or everlasting—unending duration. Believers possess 'eternal life' (John 3:16) now and will dwell with God eternally, while the impenitent face 'eternal punishment' (Matthew 25:46).

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

Glory — δόξα (Doxa)

Glory, majesty, splendor

The Greek **doxa** (δόξα) means glory, splendor, or magnificence—the radiant manifestation of God's perfection. Christ revealed the Father's glory: 'we beheld his glory' (John 1:14).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Gospel — εὐαγγέλιον (Euangelion)

Good news, gospel

The Greek **euangelion** (εὐαγγέλιον) means good news or gospel—the message of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection. It's 'the power of God unto salvation' (Romans 1:16).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Messiah — Χριστός (Christos)

Christ, Anointed One

The Greek **Christos** (Χριστός) translates 'Messiah'—the Anointed One. Peter confessed 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:16), recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 4:1 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 3:6; 4:16; Isaiah 40:30; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13; Philippians 4:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3; Revelation 2:3. **Grace:** 1 Corinthians 7:25

2 Corinthians 4:2 **Word:** 2 Corinthians 2:17. **References God:** 2 Corinthians 5:11; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 4:5. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 11:3; 11:6; Romans 6:21; Ephesians 4:14; 5:12. **Truth:** 2 Corinthians 7:14

2 Corinthians 4:3 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 2:12; 3:14; 4:4; Matthew 11:25; Romans 2:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:11

2 Corinthians 4:4 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 6:10; John 12:31; 12:40; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12. **References Christ:** 2 Corinthians 3:14. **Faith:** Acts 26:18. **Glory:** 2 Corinthians 4:6. **References God:** 1 John 5:19. **Light:** John 8:12

2 Corinthians 4:5 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:24; Galatians 5:13; Titus 1:11; 2 Peter 2:3. **References Christ:** 1 Corinthians 1:23; Philippians 1:15. **References Jesus:** Philippians 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:10

2 Corinthians 4:6

Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:4; Isaiah 40:5; 60:2; John 11:40; Hebrews 1:3. **Light:** Genesis 1:3; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:19

2 Corinthians 4:7 **References God:** 2 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 1:28; Colossians 1:27. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 4:1; 10:10; Lamentations 4:2; Matthew 13:44; Ephesians 3:8; Colossians 2:3; 2 Timothy 2:20

2 Corinthians 4:8 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 6:4; 7:5; 12:10; 1 Samuel 28:15; 30:6; Psalms 37:33; Proverbs 14:26; 18:10; John 14:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Corinthians 4:9 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 7:6; Psalms 9:10; 22:1; 42:5; 42:11; Proverbs 24:16; Isaiah 43:2; 62:4; Micah 7:8; Hebrews 13:5

2 Corinthians 4:10 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:5; 1:9; 13:4; Romans 6:5; 6:8; 8:36; Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 2:11; 1 Peter 4:13. **References Jesus:** Galatians 6:17

2 Corinthians 4:11 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 5:4; Psalms 44:22; Romans 8:36; 1 Corinthians 15:49. **References Jesus:** Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:31

2 Corinthians 4:12 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 12:15; 13:9; Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 4:10; Philippians 2:17; 2:30; 1 John 3:16

2 Corinthians 4:13 **Faith:** Psalms 116:10; Acts 15:11; Romans 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Peter 1:1. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 3:12; Proverbs 21:28

2 Corinthians 4:14 **Resurrection:** Isaiah 26:19; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:14. **References Jesus:** Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:14. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:22; Jude 1:24

2 Corinthians 4:15

References God: Psalms 50:14; 50:23; Romans 8:28. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:11; 1 Peter 2:9. **Grace:** 2 Corinthians 8:19. **Glory:** Galatians 1:24; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 4:11

2 Corinthians 4:16 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 4:1; Psalms 27:13; 73:26; Isaiah 40:29; 40:31; Romans 7:22; 12:2; Ephesians 3:16; Colossians 3:10; Titus 3:5

2 Corinthians 4:17 **Glory:** 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 2:7; 8:18; 1 Peter 5:10; Jude 1:24. **Parallel theme:** Romans 8:34; 8:37; 1 Corinthians 2:9; James 1:12; 1 Peter 4:7

2 Corinthians 4:18 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1; 11:13. **Eternal Life:** Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 John 2:25

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