

# 2 Corinthians 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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 commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

## Analysis

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**But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty** (ta krypta tēs aischynēs, τὰ κρυπτὰ τῆς αἰσχύνης, 'the secret shameful things')—Paul contrasts his transparent ministry with opponents who used *panourgia* (πανουργία, 'craftiness, cunning') and *doloō* (δολόω, 'to adulterate, corrupt') the word of God. He doesn't manipulate Scripture for personal gain or twist it to please audiences.

**By manifestation of the truth** (phanerōsei tēs alētheias, φανερώσει τῆς ἀληθείας)—Paul's defense rests on open declaration, not rhetorical tricks. He appeals to every man's conscience (pasēs syneidēseōs anthrōpōn, πάσης συνειδήσεως ἀνθρώπων) before God as witness. Truth doesn't need deceptive packaging; it commends itself when plainly stated. This is the antithesis of Sophistic rhetoric that valued style over substance.

## Historical Context

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Corinth was notorious for Sophists—traveling teachers who taught rhetoric and philosophy for pay, often manipulating arguments to win debates regardless of truth. False apostles in Corinth apparently used such tactics with Scripture. Paul's insistence on plainness was countercultural in a city that prized eloquence.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. Where are you tempted to 'package' truth in ways that make it more palatable but less honest?
2. How does Paul's confidence that truth commends itself to conscience challenge modern marketing approaches to the gospel?
3. What 'hidden things of dishonesty' might you need to renounce in how you communicate spiritual things?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀλλὰ ἀπειπάμεθα τὰ κρυπτὰ τῆς αἰσχύνης μὴ  
But have renounced G3588 the hidden things G3588 of dishonesty G152 not  
G235 G550 G2927 G3588 G152 G3361

περιπατοῦντες ἐν πανουργίᾳ μηδὲ δολοῦντες τὸν λόγον  
walking in craftiness nor deceitfully the word  
G4043 G1722 G3834 G3366 G1389 G3588 G3056

τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀλλὰ τῇ φανερώσει τῆς ἀληθείας  
of God But by manifestation of the truth  
G3588 G2316 G3588 G5321 G3588 G225

συνιστώντες ἐαυτοὺς πρὸς πᾶσαν συνείδησιν ἀνθρώπων  
commending ourselves to every conscience man's  
G4921 G1438 G4314 G3956 G4893 G444

ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ  
in the sight of God  
G1799 G3588 G2316

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 2:17** (Word): For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:11** (References God): Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

**1 Corinthians 4:5** (References God): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** (Parallel theme): But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**Romans 1:16** (References God): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**2 Corinthians 7:14** (Truth): For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.

**Ephesians 5:12** (Parallel theme): For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

**Ephesians 4:14** (Parallel theme): That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**Romans 6:21** (Parallel theme): What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

**2 Corinthians 11:6** (Parallel theme): But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things.