

# Studies in

# 2 Corinthians



## Lesson VI

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**TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 4:1-12 (NKJV)

**1** Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. **2** But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, 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 even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **8** We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— **10** always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. **11** For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So then death is working in us, but life in you.

## Discussion Questions

1. When the going gets rough for Christians, why don't we just give up? (vs. 1; cf. 2 Cor. 3:2, 9)

2. What is necessary to carry out the ministry that God has given us and successfully turn hearts to Jesus? (vs. 2)
  
3. Why aren't more people open to the Good News, according to verses 3-4?
  
4. Who should we be drawing attention to—ourselves or Jesus? (vv. 5-6)
  
5. Sometimes we feel insecure about being an ambassador for Christ (think Moses, "I am slow of speech" or Jeremiah, "I am but a youth"). What does God think of our inadequacies? (vs. 7)
  
6. Paul gives four examples of God's power at work in his life in verses 8-9. What are they?
  
7. Why was Paul so willing to make sacrifices for the Gospel, putting himself in harm's way? (vv. 10-12). Does God sometimes call us to make similar decisions?