

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

2 Corinthians 4
This study has not
been posted on
facebook yet



By Dan Maines

2 Corinthians 4

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in trickery nor distorting the word of God, but by the open proclamation of the truth commending ourselves to every person's conscience in the sight of God.

- † Paul affirms his perseverance in ministry, sustained by mercy.
- † He rejects deception or distortion, proclaiming the truth openly.
- † Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.25) notes Paul's integrity against the deceit of false apostles.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- † The gospel's veil remains for those perishing in unbelief.
- † Satan blinds minds to prevent seeing Christ's glory.
- † Justin Martyr (Dialogue with Trypho 38) explained Israel's blindness as a veil covering them from seeing Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants on account of Jesus. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

- † Paul preaches Christ, not himself.
- † God's creative light now shines in hearts, revealing His glory in Christ.
- † Philo (On the Creation 31) described light as the first work of God, which Paul applies spiritually here.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

- † The gospel is a treasure, and believers are fragile vessels.
- † God's power is shown in weakness.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 4.5.1) described believers as clay in the Potter's hand, echoing Paul's teaching.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed, but not despairing, persecuted, but not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed.

† Paul lists his trials, but God sustains him through all.

† Suffering is real but never final.

† Josephus (Wars 2.22.2) recorded the persecutions of Jews and early believers, providing historical context to Paul's words.

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

Always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who live are constantly being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh.

† Paul's suffering reflects Christ's death, but also reveals His life.

† Affliction displays resurrection power in weak vessels.

2 Corinthians 4:12

So death works in us, but life in you.

† Paul's suffering benefits the Corinthians, bringing them life.

† Ministry often requires sacrifice for others' growth.

2 Corinthians 4:13-14

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written: "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present us with you.

† Faith speaks boldly, trusting resurrection hope.

† The same God who raised Christ will also vindicate His people.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 24) tied creation and resurrection together as reasons for hope.

2 Corinthians 4:15

For all things are for your sakes, so that grace, having spread to more and more people, will cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

† Paul's trials and ministry serve to spread grace, increasing thanksgiving.

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day.

† Physical decline is real, but inward renewal by the Spirit is daily.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Romans 7) spoke of outer decay but inner renewal in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 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 temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

† Affliction is momentary compared to eternal glory.

† Faith focuses on unseen, eternal realities.

† Origen (On First Principles 2.11.2) emphasized the unseen eternal as superior to the visible.

How it applies to us today

† 2 Corinthians 4 reminds us that our weakness magnifies

God's power.

† The gospel is treasure in fragile vessels, proving salvation is of God, not man.

† Affliction is real but temporary, producing eternal glory.

† With unveiled hearts, we look beyond the temporary to the eternal, walking in the light of Christ.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.25 - Paul's integrity against false apostles

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 38 - Israel's blindness to Christ

† Philo, On the Creation 31 - God's light in creation

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.5.1 - clay in the Potter's hand

† Josephus, Wars 2.22.2 - persecutions and afflictions

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 24 - hope in creation and resurrection

† Ignatius, Letter to the Romans 7 - inner renewal amid decay

† Origen, On First Principles 2.11.2 - unseen eternal realities

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.