

I) The Nature of the Ministry (II Corinthians 4:1-3):

- A) Work to be done:
 - 1) *“Therefore seeing we have this ministry”* (1).
 - 2) *“our gospel”* (3).
- B) Received/accepted”:
 - 1) *“as we have received mercy”* (1).
- C) Steady persistence:
 - 1) *“we faint not”* (1).
- D) Reprove darkness:
 - 1) *“renounced the hidden things of dishonesty”* (2).
- E) Walking upright:
 - 1) *“not walking in craftiness”* (2).
- F) Teaching/Preaching truth:
 - 1) *“nor handling the word of God deceitfully”* (2).
 - 2) *“manifestation of the truth”* (2)
- G) Needed effort:
 - 1) *“commending ourselves”* (2).
 - 2) *“we also believe, and therefore speak”* (13).
- H) Directed to all:
 - 1) *“to every man’s conscience in the sight of God”* (2).

II) The Effects of the Ministry (II Corinthians 4:3-7):

- A) Christians unfaithful to the ministry: *“But if our gospel be hid”* (3)
 - 1) The unsaved stay lost:
 - *“it is hid to them that are lost”* (3).
 - 2) Satan, the god of this world, blinds the lost:
 - *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not”* (4).
- B) Christians faithful to the ministry: *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord”* (5).
 - 1) The lost realize who God is:
 - *“Christ, who is the image of God”* (4).
 - *“Christ Jesus the Lord”* (5).
 - 2) The gospel will correct sin/darkness:
 - *“lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”* (4).
 - 3) Humble nature:
 - *“we preach not ourselves”* (5).
 - *“the power may be of God, and not of us”* (7).
 - 4) Servantship realized:
 - *“and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake”* (5).

- 5) Obedience to God’s command:
 - *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness”* (6).
- 6) Change of heart/conversion:
 - *“hath shined in our hearts”* (6).
- 7) Truth is revealed:
 - *“to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God”* (6).
- 8) The ability is not in man:
 - *“the power may be of God, and not of us”* (7).
- 9) Man’s limitations:
 - *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels”* (7).

III) Christian Persecution (II Corinthians 4:8-14):

- A) Adversity from all directions:
 - 1) Suffering: *“We are troubled on every side”* (8).
 - 2) **Result:** *“yet not distressed”* (8).
- B) Perplexities (constant inward battles):
 - 1) Suffering: *“we are perplexed”* (8).
 - 2) **Result:** *“but not in despair”* (8).
- C) Persecution:
 - 1) Suffering: *“Persecuted”* (9).
 - 2) **Result:** *“but not forsaken”* (9).
- D) Trials/bumps:
 - 1) Suffering: *“cast down”* (9).
 - 2) **Result:** *“but not destroyed”* (9).
- E) Physical battles against the flesh (physical/spiritual):
 - 1) Suffering: *“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus”* (10).
 - 2) **Result:** *“that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body”* (10).
 - 3) Suffering: *“For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake”* (11).
 - 4) **Result:** *“that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh”* (11).
 - 5) Suffering: *“but though our outward man perish”* (16).
 - 6) **Result:** *“yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* (16).
- F) Death of flesh/reign of spirit:
 - 1) Suffering: *“So then death worketh in us”* (12).
 - 2) **Result:** *“but life in you”* (12).
- G) Outward faith:
 - 1) *“I believed, and therefore have I spoken”* (13; Psalm 116:10).
 - 2) *“we also believe, and therefore speak”* (13).
 - 3) *“Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you”* (14).

H) Length of trials:

- 1) Suffering: *“For our light affliction”* (17).
- 2) **Result:** *“which is but for a moment”* (17).

IV) The Purpose of the Ministry (II Corinthians 4:15-18):

A) To reach the lost that they might be saved:

- 1) *“For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God”* (15).
- 2) *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (17).

B) Man’s relationship with God:

- 1) *“the inward man is renewed day by day”* (16).

C) Man’s focus reset:

- 1) *“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”* (18).