

## **Sermon: Don't Lose Heart**

**Text: 2 Corinthians 3:7-4:18**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Read chapter 3 verses 7-11 through a couple of times. Paul is clearly talking about the Ten Commandments...and the account in Exodus 19-20 when Moses went atop Mount Sinai where he received the commands of God inscribed on tablets of stone. In Exodus 34:29 we read that when Moses would come down from the top of the mountain, his face literally “shone”—so much so that he took to wearing a veil over his face. What is interesting about 2 Cor. 3:7-11, though, is that Paul is talking about all of this as “the ministry that brought death”—and contrasting the Ten Commandments with the ministry of the Holy Spirit. What is Paul’s point in all of this? Why does it seem that he’s being critical of the Ten Commandments? What does it mean that the commands of God are a “ministry that brings death”? What kind of “glory” does the ministry of the Holy Spirit produce?
- What is the “hope” that Paul is referring to in verse 12, and how should this hope make us bold? Do you find that this is true for you? Can you give an example?
- What insight does verse 13 give us as to why Moses would wear a veil when his face was shining?
- What does Paul mean when he says that the Jews still have a veil that covers their hearts whenever Moses is read? How is the Holy Spirit able to remove that veil and give us freedom?
- What is the “ministry” that Paul is describing in chapter 4 verse 1? Is this a ministry that was specific to Paul...or do all believers have “this ministry”?
- What does it mean to “set forth the truth plainly”—as opposed to using deception or distorting the word of God? (v. 2) How is this something all of us can do in our daily lives?
- Paul describes two things in verse 7: 1) a treasure and 2) jars of clay. What is the treasure? What are the jars of clay? Why is the treasure contained in jars of clay?
- How does verse 8 give us hope?
- How are we “always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake”? (v. 11)
- Paul repeats in verse 16 the same thing he stated in verse 1—the fact that he won’t “lose heart.” Why do you think Paul was in danger of losing heart? What is Paul doing to keep from losing heart? Are you ever in danger of losing heart...and what do you do to keep this from happening?
- How is it that we can be renewed inwardly day by day? Is this something that everyone can experience—and how?
- What is Paul telling us to fix our eyes on? (v. 18)