

This Is Us Series  
Looking for What You Want-Missing What You Need  
2 Corinthians 4:1-6  
March 17, 2019

“Everyone wants everyone else’s everything. Sometimes the more we have the less we really gain.”

Jesus said it like this - **Matthew 16:26** — *26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*

Paul is writing in this section to let them know that it’s not about being impressive. It’s about putting the focus on the impressiveness of Jesus and serving others.

**2 Corinthians 4:1-6** — *1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

Be **ENCOURAGED** - Pray **HARD** - Shine the **LIGHT!**

While we may be focused on looking for what we want, I’d like to suggest three things that we need in this broken world.

What We Need...

1. **HONESTY** 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

What we’re talking about is this idea that the manner of our lives actually supports the truth of the message that we’ve been given the privilege of sharing with others.

If you’ve never taken that step to believe in Jesus, my encouragement to you would be to look for someone who’s engaged in sharing the message about Jesus and doing so humbly, honestly and with transparency.

If you are following Jesus today, my encouragement would be to make sure that your manner of life supports the message about Jesus. And then make sure that you are delivering that message honestly.

2. **SPIRITUALITY** 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

What Paul is saying is that if people don’t get that message, it’s not because of him and those who through the years have followed in his steps to proclaim that message. It’s because there is a spiritual battle taking place and there is an enemy who wants nothing more than to make sure that you don’t see the truth of the Jesus in my place Gospel message.

Charles Spurgeon understood this. He wrote - Passionate longings after men's conversion, if not fully satisfied (and when are they?), consume the soul with anxiety and disappointment. To see the hopeful turn aside, waxing more bold in sin—are not these sights enough to crush us to the earth? The kingdom comes not as we would, the reverend name is not hallowed as we desire, and for this we must weep. How can we be otherwise than sorrowful, while men believe not our report, and the divine arm is not revealed? Yet our sorrow must be mixed with cosmic realism, recognizing that preaching the gospel, by its very nature, involves spiritual forces beyond us. God alone can shine light into the human heart, giving sight to those blinded by the god of this world. We therefore must preach in full dependence on the Lord, in the power of the Spirit.

### 3. ADVOCACY 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

An advocate is a person who speaks or writes in support or defense of a person or a cause. What Paul is saying is that he is an advocate for Jesus, not for himself. He's not going to focus on promoting his own agenda or his profile. He's going to focus on Jesus.

If you're a follower of Jesus today, here's what I want to encourage you to do - Pick one person to share Jesus with and start serving them. And pray hard!

If you're not a follower of Jesus yet, would you do this for me - Pray that God would show you His glory in the face of Jesus.

Let's talk about missing what you need...

1. How is the mercy of God the source of our encouragement in a world so full of unbelief today (4:1)?
2. How have you seen Christians engage in sharing Jesus in disgraceful and underhanded ways (4:2)?
3. What does it mean to tamper with the Word of God (4:2)?
4. What do we need to do to commend ourselves to everyone in the sight of God (4:2)?
5. If the Gospel is veiled to those who are perishing, what is it to those who have been redeemed (4:3)?
6. How does the god of this world blind the minds of unbelievers (4:4)?
7. What is Satan trying to do in the lives of people today (4:4)?
8. What often happens to people who faithfully proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord that is contrary to what Paul called for (4:5)?
9. Why would Paul bring up what God did in the beginning to bring light out of darkness (4:6)?
10. What is the light and what is the darkness that Paul talks about in this passage?