



Study 4 - Treasure in Jars of Clay - 2 Corinthians 4

1. In what ways does talking about Jesus with unbelievers make us feel weak or fragile?
2. Read 2 Cor 4:1-6. What are the methods, motives of true gospel preachers?
3. 2 Cor 4:6 says: *"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"*

What is different about the heart of every true Christian?

What is similar between the first act of creation and God's act of making someone a Christian?

4. Paul says *he preaches Jesus as Lord* (v5) and he *sets forth the truth of God plainly to every conscience* (v2). Paul Barnett summarises in this way: *"Paradoxically, Paul's readers see the glory of Christ as they hear the gospel"*. Discuss. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

How have you seen the message of Jesus as Lord transform your life or someone else's life?

5. Read 2 Cor 4:7-12. If the gospel message brings glory, how does it feel to be someone who shares this powerful and glorious message?
6. Why is it wise for God to have his gospel treasure communicated by 'jars of clay'? Discuss.
7. How would these verses (7-12) encourage or challenge the following people:
 - a. the faithful Sunday school teacher?
 - b. a Growth Group leader who is having a tough time?
 - c. a Christian in the workplace who is ridiculed for their faith?
 - d. a Christian who is diluting the message in order to achieve worldly acceptance?
8. Read 2 Cor 4:13-18. What future hope awaits us? Why should we not lose heart?

Finish the study by spending some time in prayer:

- Pray that we would speak of Jesus as Lord, praying that God would unblind people to his glory in the face of Christ
- Pray that we would fix our eyes on what is unseen, as we preach Christ in our weakness and fragility today