

**“WE DO NOT LOSE HEART”:
GOD’S ENCOURAGEMENT TO US IN MINISTRY**

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

A. GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO _____ IN SPITE OF NUMEROUS TRIALS AND OPPOSITION. (4:1)

1. Paul did not lose heart because of the _____ that he had.

- What was this ministry?
- Do we have a ministry?

2. Paul did not lose heart because he had received mercy to _____ the demands of the ministry.

- What is another way Paul received mercy?
- How have we received mercy?

B. GOD WANTS US TO LIVE WITH _____, LACKING _____. (4:2)

1. Paul did not walk in _____ or handle the Word of God _____.

- What about us?

2. Paul proclaimed truth openly before God in a way that _____ him to his listeners, as should we.

- What can we learn from this?

C. OUR OPEN MINISTRY IS NOT THE REASON FOR THE GOSPEL BEING _____. (4:3-4)

- If Paul’s methods and message were not at fault, why was the Gospel veiled?
- Why is it important for us to remember this Satanic blindness as we share

the Gospel?

D. OUR MINISTRY AND MESSAGE IS ALL ABOUT PROCLAIMING _____ (4:5)

- What is this proclamation of Christ in contrast to?
- How did Paul describe *his* relationship to the Corinthians when it came to his ministry?
- What can we learn from this?

E. OUR MINISTRY IS A RESULT OF THE _____ SHINING IN OUR HEARTS. (4:6)

- Who does the shining? Who does this light reveal?
- What is this light in contrast to?
- What can you learn from this?

F. GOD'S MESSAGE IS A TREASURE CONTAINED IN AN _____ (4:7)

- What is the treasured message being referred to here?
- Who are these earthen vessels? What does the term "earthen vessel" indicate?
- Whose power is on display when the Gospel is shared with humility and accuracy? Who gets the glory in this method of evangelism?
- How does this apply to you?