

New Morning Magical

The ultimate tool to prevent blindness

The Apostle Paul was moved to write a second letter to the Corinthians, much like he did for the Thessalonians, and we begin exploring 2 Corinthians now in chapter 4:

1 Therefore, having this dispensation, according as we were shown mercy, we are not despondent.

This one sentence indicates how much Paul counted on the Father's mercy, but it also shows Paul's determination to carry "this dispensation" to its conclusion no matter what.

2 But we spurn the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor yet adulterating the word of God, but, by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in God's sight.

In this verse, Paul stands as an example to "every man's conscience in God's sight," as he perseveres in manifesting the truth, despite the evil that surrounds him. Between these first two verses in chapter 4, we get perhaps the first glimpse at an embattled Apostle who is yet determined to remain faithful to his calling, because the One to Whom he is playing is the Father Himself; it's in HIS eyes that Paul looks for approval, and the rest of the world can see for itself.

3 Now, if our evangel is covered, also, it is covered in those who are perishing,
4 in whom the god of this eon blinds the apprehensions of the unbelieving so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God, does not irradiate them.

The "IF" in verse 3 – "*if our evangel is covered*" – is a big IF, but Paul allows for the possibility that his evangel could be covered, as in covered over, by "*those who are perishing*," meaning those who die never seeing, understanding, or grasping, much less believing the evangel. He says that these are those "*whom the god of this eon blinds.*"

Make no mistake: there is a "*god of this eon*," with a small "g" – a spirit overseeing this eon. It is significant that Paul does not name this spirit and, although most in Christendom would assign the name of Satan to this spirit, this reference is similar to Yeshua's words in John 14:30, "*the Chief of the world is coming, and in Me it has not anything.*"

I don't want to bog down in the spiritual hierarchy, but Paul refers to it in Ephesians 6:

12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.

In the midst of your going free in your heart and mind, you don't have to look far to find evidence of what Paul meant in Ephesians 6:12. We may be surrounded by "*spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials*," whose influence is seen everywhere in the world today; yet we can walk as far above it as Paul did. Let everyone around you crumble in fear while you remain steadfast, because the only weapons that evil celestials have is deception, lie, distraction, and misdirection.

You are believing, as Paul would say, not "*unbelieving*." This is the key to understanding verse 4 of 2 Corinthians chapter 4:

4 in whom the god of this eon blinds the apprehensions of the unbelieving

You can't be blinded unless you are already unbelieving, so you have nothing to fear.

so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God, does not irradiate them.

People who have already chosen unbelief, or who refuse to believe, simply cannot see Yeshua, the Christ, who, Paul says, "*is the Image of the invisible God*." They WILL not, and then they CANNOT. Just like Pharaoh who hardened his heart, and then God hardened it; first he would not, and then he could not. It's the same idea here: Those who choose not to believe – who decide to turn their eyes from the glory of Christ – are then unable to believe and, therefore, to perceive His glory at all. If they survive to the coming of the Lord, they may be left on the Earth to be governed by Him whether they like it or not. Perceiving Him will not then be a matter of faith, as it is for you and me today. In that day, Yeshua will stand before the world; He will be seen by everyone; it is no long a matter of faith, but sight. Paul knew what he was up against when he wrote all this in 2 Corinthians.

Let's move on now to verse 6:

6 for the God Who says that, out of darkness light shall be shining, is He Who shines in our hearts, with a view to the illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God in the

face of Jesus Christ.

7 Now we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the transcendence of the power may be of God and not of us.

8 In everything, being afflicted, but not distressed; perplexed, but not despairing;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not perishing --

10 always carrying about in the body the deadening of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body.

Now we see again the determination of Paul, always looking to the life of Yeshua in him, despite all opposition; not distressed, despairing, or forsaken, and certainly not perishing; going through whatever he had to, to demonstrate Yeshua's life even in his own body.

Paul must have relied continually on whatever Yeshua intimated to him, as Yeshua told Ananias, how much Paul must be suffering for His name. So, in whatever ways you may perceive suffering in your life today, remember Yeshua Who suffered far more, and Paul who endured far more, and the other apostles who were all martyred for following after Yeshua.

Paul goes on to finish the chapter, and let's jump to verse 16:

16 Wherefore we are not despondent, but even if our outward man is decaying, nevertheless **that within us is being renewed day by day.**

We can see how important your mind and spirit are, because your outside may have its troubles, but your insides are "*being renewed day by day,*" as Paul says.

17 For the momentary lightness of our affliction is producing for us a transcendently transcendent eonian burden of glory,

18 at our not noting what is being observed, but what is not being observed, for what is being observed is temporary, yet what is not being observed is eonian.

You might think that Paul is being sarcastic when he writes, "*the momentary lightness of our affliction,*" until you read the "*transcendently transcendent eonian burden of glory*" that he compares to any affliction we can conceive. We should remember that in the Apostle Paul's day, persecution was real and often horrible. It's the expectation of a "*transcendently transcendent eonian burden of glory*" – an interesting phrase all on its own – that enables us to keep our heads on straight and get through our day.

Finally, Paul concludes chapter 4 in verse 18:

18 at our not noting what is being observed, but what is not being observed, for what is being observed is temporary, yet what is not being observed is eonian.

Our ability to minimize any current struggle – *“the momentary lightness of our affliction,”* – and the reason we can perceive correctly our *“transcendently transcendent eonian burden of glory”* we aren’t paying attention to what we can see or hear all around us, but, rather, what we cannot see or hear today except by the spirit and in our spirits.

If you’ll allow me, this is how I see it: The only way to negotiate this eon and stay sane is to ignore it. It’s temporary anyway, Paul says, and he’s right! What we cannot see with our physical eyes, but which we CAN see through the eyes of our spirit is eonian; it is lasting through the eons of time to come. To me, it is as important and as simple as keeping your gaze vertical – toward the heavens, toward the celestial – rather than gazing horizontally at the rest of the world.

There’s nothing here for you in this eon that is not temporary, but there is EVERYTHING here for you now by the Spirit of God operating in you that inspires you to wait expectantly for the Day of the Lord. Your celestial body will not be seen by anyone on Earth as far as I know, but it awaits that day in perfect health, perfect condition; it never hurts and it cannot die. The best part is, you will arrive into that form and meet the Lord face to face. So, who cares what happens on this Earth when you have this expectation that your Lord won for you?

The Father has the rest of the world handled and will bring it to “the consummation” when He will be all in all, so until then, don’t sweat it. Keep your eyes on your prize and put one foot in front of the other until Yeshua returns.

That’s it for today. Thanks for listening and until next time . . .

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN