

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Shining Gospel

Speaker:

Doug Plank

Date:

May 10th, 2026

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 4:1–6

Theme: Don't avert your eyes from the gospel; it has all the light we seek.

Introduction: Second Corinthians is a letter written by a man under fire. The Apostle Paul was being attacked by super-apostle false teachers who had made reputations for themselves in the surrounding regions. Paul, on the other hand, would confess often that he was not a man on fire with talents and presence. And yet, while Paul was under attack, the reality was that the true object of the attack was the gospel. Christians must understand that the same spiritual forces that seek to veil and distort the shining gospel of Christ surround us as well, and God's Word gives us what we need to maneuver around these attempts.

Paul shows us three ways to keep our eyes fixed on the gospel:

1. Behold the mercy (1–2)

- Despite the troubles that kept coming Paul's way, he did not lose heart.
- His ministry and message were rooted in the mercy of God, and the powerful effect of this mercy was that he avoided discouragement.
 - Losing heart is a result of losing sight of mercy.
- The mercy of God also caused Paul to be revulsed at the "disgraceful, underhanded ways" of the super apostles who were tampering with God's Word.

2. Beware the darkness (3–4)

- Part of the Corinthian conflict was built on the narrative that Paul's message was powerless.
- While the super apostles would point to their numbers and accolades, Paul saw the intoxicating and delusional nature of outward success.
- Paul identified that some people will not receive the gospel because the god of this world has blinded their minds.
- Satan's influence and shrouding power are still active today, but the Lord has given us shining light in Jesus to drive away darkness.

3. Shine in Jesus (5–6)

- Paul's platform can be summarized in four words: "Jesus Christ as Lord" (v. 5).
- The shining light of the Light of men transforms us and causes us to be more like him and reflect his glory.

Questions:

1. How do you see the connection in your life between losing heart and losing sight of God's mercy?
2. How might you need to avoid the intoxicating allure of outward success?
3. In what ways have you seen the shining light of Jesus transform you? How do you desire to continue to grow?