

Nothing but the Truth

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 4:1-6.

B. Many Christians are ready to quit

1. They do not see themselves as the instruments of God at work.
2. They focus on what they are doing for God.
3. They do not understand the New Covenant for living that God has provided in Christ.

II. Reasons that the New Covenant does not allow for discouragement in ministry.

A. Disgraceful underhanded ways are refused.

1. Paul turned his back on ways that bring discouragement.
2. This includes deceitful practices.
3. There are those who tamper with God's Word.
 - a. Resurrection is spiritualized.
 - b. "Christ" is made to mean something else.
 - c. People claim that the Bible has been proven wrong.
4. Truth is not determined by whether it feels good but by whether it explains reality.
5. Truth speaks to the conscience and not only the mind.
6. People are perishing because they do not believe—they do not believe because they are blinded by the devil.
 - a. The veil man has is that he is able to handle life by himself.
 - b. Men everywhere want to be like God.
 - c. It is wrong to believe that we can be like God by ourselves.
 - d. Only Christ can take away the veil of deceit.

B. Ministry is for service and not mastery or submission.

1. Christ is the master and Lord.

2. Christ as Lord is preached not oneself.

a. The need of human hearts everywhere is to see that Jesus is Lord. (Romans 10)

b. Turning to the Lord removes the veil.

c. One finds the glory of God in Jesus and Jesus in the Scriptures.

4. If one is in darkness, he ought to seek the authentic Jesus found in the Scriptures.

Application questions:

1. How have you found yourself discouraged in ministry?

2. How can refusing underhanded ways be encouraging?

3. Why is relinquishing control over people so important in ministry? How can it help the minister personally?
