

Introduction:

- I want to lift up Jesus this morning! Holy Spirit, help to make Jesus real to your people!
- *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," (Gen. 1:3,16) has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:3-6, ESV)*
- I like the simplicity of the Message Bible: *"If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get. Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "**Light up the darkness!**" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful." (2 Corinthians 4:3-6, The Message)*
- The LIGHT is sourced from knowledge, glory, and God in the face of Jesus!
 - of the knowledge
 - of the glory
 - of God
 - in the face of Jesus Christ!
- In this passage we will see what Satan veils and God reveals. What Satan hides and God enlightens. We will see the glory of God in His Son, Jesus Christ.

I. The Veiled Gospel

- A. The veiled Gospel is the hidden Gospel. It is the Gospel that is hidden so that people do not see the goodness of God. What Satan seeks to hide vs. 4 God enlightens us to see vs. 6.
 1. The veil is the nature of of darkness. It is there to cover something up. You often hear the phrase, "under the cover of darkness they..." "They sought to do something in an undetected manner." The devil is always leading people to cover up the truth with lies. If we cant see truth then we will believe a lie. Lies exist or are created in order to cover up something. Satan seeks to veil the Truth.
 2. What is a veil? From the Gr. καλυπτω - kalypto - meaning to bury, to hide, to cover up
 - a) Veils are meant to hide things. Ie. A bride sometimes wears a veil to hide her face from her husband to be. Islamic women wear veils to hide their faces.
 - b) To veil is: 'To cover up' something - is any action or strategy of concealing or preventing investigation. A 'cover up' is the act of trying to hide the truth. IE. Government cover ups - UFOs. Insurance coverups. China virus cover ups. The list goes on.

- c) Moses killed a man/cover up. Ex 2:12. He also wore a veil to cover the light of the glory of God that shone from his face. Ex 34:29-35
- 3. Many people read our passage (2 Cor 4:3-6) and think about how bad the devil is that he would hide the truth, and that is true. It is wrong of him to do that.
 - a) But let me ask you this: If he has to place a veil over our eyes, then what is he trying to hide?
 - b) I think that question in this passage is a 'game changer!' To be veiled from the light of the gospel means to have no spiritual perception of truth, no spiritual perception of what frees, encourages, strengthens and builds a person up.
 - c) The apostle Paul says he was sent to bring light to people in darkness. "All we are is messengers and errand runners of the Gospel.
- B. What is it that the devil does not want us to see? This is what we should be asking ourselves!
 - 1. How many of you would answer: "The Gospel is being veiled by him!" Well, you are right, but there is more.
 - a) The Gospel of peace. Acts 10:36
 - b) The Gospel of healing. Luke 4:18-ff
 - c) The Gospel of God. Romans 1:1-3
 - d) The Gospel of the Living God. Acts 15:14
 - e) The Gospel of Salvation. Eph 1:13
 - f) The Gospel of Grace. Acts 20:24
 - g) There are 4 'of's in our passage. 'Of' indicates derivation, origin, source.
 - 2. These expressions are all facets/faces of the Gospel which make up the face of Jesus. The facets are like a beautiful diamond. Many people never get beyond looking at the facet of – salvation. Satan does not want us to see the face of Jesus because if we do we will see the many facets of who He is and that would be glorious!
 - a) We are veiled/blinded when anything obscures us from seeing the face of Jesus.
 - b) Are you content to just be saved? Then Jesus is veiled to you.
 - c) Are you content to just love the prophetic? Then Jesus is veiled to you.
 - d) All lies that we believe are veils that are meant to keep us from seeing the face of Jesus!
- C. If the gospel is veiled the Light is veiled! There is no beauty in a diamond with one facet. The beauty of the diamond is in the 'whole'. To be veiled is to have no spiritual perception/sight. You can hear the words of the gospel, comprehend the facts of the gospel but if there is no 'light' the truth is veiled.
 - 1. "What this means is that blinded people consider the facts of the gospel but see no compelling beauty, no treasure, nothing supremely precious. Just facts." John Piper.
 - 2. They have the knowledge but they do not possess the conviction of the Word. Jonathan Edwards a preacher in the first Great Awakening in America said, "He that is spiritually enlightened truly apprehends and sees it, or has a sense of it. He does not merely rationally believe that God is glorious, but he has a sense of the gloriousness of God in his heart."

Sermon- A Divine and Supernatural Light; Jonathan Edwards.

3. It is the Light that liberates! The light gives the diamond its beauty! Satan veils the Gospel to those who are perishing but God reveals the Gospel to all who believe.

II. The Un-veild Christ! What Does God Want Us to See? To Find? JESUS!

- A. Truth! God wants us to find truth. He does not want the truth covered up or hidden. He wants His Son revealed and Satan seeks to put blinders on our eyes so that the truth remains, hidden, buried, covered up. Ie. How is it I could go to church for 9 years of my life, three times a week plus youth group and still not get saved until I was 19? The Gospel was hidden but when I believed the Good News Light filled me!
 1. Jesus did not say you will know a truth and that truth will set you free. He said you will know Truth capital 'T', Noun. Jn 14:6 "*I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.*"
- B. The glory of Jesus! Lion and the Lamb! What a picture!
 1. John 17:24 "**Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.**" (John 17:24, ESV)
 2. This is a high priestly prayer of Jesus! He wants us to see, to behold, to gaze upon HIS GLORY! (LIGHT!)
 3. As He is about to lay down His life for His Bride and redeem a people to God, His greatest desire for those who would believe is that we would see His glory! To see His glory is to have spiritual perception to see Him!
 4. Rev 5:5-7 is a great depiction of glory. The glory is the divine beauty of his manifold (multifaceted perfections)
 - a) We admire him for his glory, but even more because his glory is mingled with humility.
 - b) We admire him for his transcendence, but even more because his transcendence is accompanied by a heart willing to go low (into our world).
 - c) We admire him for his uncompromising justice, but even more because it is tempered with mercy.
 - d) We admire his majesty but even more because it is majesty in meekness.
 - e) We admire him because of how worthy he is of all good, but even more because this was accompanied by an amazing patience to suffer evil.
 - f) Sovereign dominion yet clothed with a spirit of obedience and submission
 - g) He stumped scribes with His wisdom yet was simple enough to talk with children.
 5. This could be an unending list but it is what make Christ beautiful. It is the light of his glory. Holy Spirit reveal Jesus to us!

III. God Help Me To See! Where Do I Begin?

- A. Postion yourself.
 1. Movement toward Him. You position yourself to be near where He is or where he may be found.
 2. Zacheus - positioned himself to see the Lord.
 3. Two blind men followed him and kept crying out.

- B. You begin by saying 'YES!' when you are drawn. Do not stand off, do not say no, do not refuse him. Say "Yes!"
1. Moses was drawn to a burning bush.
 2. John 6:44 *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws him**; and I will raise him up at the last day.* NKJV Prayer: Draw me Father! Draw me to yourself.
 3. There are many levels of being drawn. Sometimes you do not even feel desire, you are just there. Many are born out of pain where our hearts cry, "Lord help me."
 4. We must move towards God when drawn. What is that like?
 - a) Desire for God. That 'gut' feeling that pulls you toward Him/church/Bible. Ie. In college I started reading a little green Gideon Bible.
 - b) Desire for to change—marriage, relationship with children, clean up your act.
 - c) Desire for more of God—regarding your faith.
- C. Come into the Light
1. Seek the presence of God Ex 33:12-18. In the presence of God Moses prayed show me your glory.
 - a) Proverbs 8:17 *I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.* NKJV Proverbs 7:15 So *I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.* NKJV Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* NKJV Prov 2:4 Seek wisdom as you would seek silver.
 - b) Jesus sought God early in the morning. IE. I have found that to be my most encountering time with God.
 2. He is the treasure hidden in the field that a man would sell everything to buy the field to have it.
- D. Believe
1. John 11:40 *Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"* NKJV Only those who believe can see His glory.
 2. John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* NKJV
 3. John 6:29 *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."* NKJV I believe, help my unbelief. Mk 9:24

Conclusion:

- We must use the Gospel to get to God, not to get our way.
- It is to our benefit to fix our gaze on the glory of our great God and be transformed into a people after his own image.