

## The Light of the Gospel Shines

### Introduction and Review

- The love of & slavery to sin causes an unbeliever's mind to be hardened or veiled to the truth (3:14a)
- Unbelievers with veiled hearts can read, study, listen & teach the scripture without any godly change in their lives (3:13, 14b-c, 15)
- Everyone who believes in Christ for salvation can see the truth of the scriptures & is radically changed (3:14d, 16) – the veil is “taken away”, “removed”
- Every true believer: has hope & boldness in Christ (3:12), knows the Holy Spirit is God (3:17a), knows He brought us freedom (3:17b), can enjoy the presence of God (3:18a-b) & is being transformed into the image of Christ (3:18c-d)

### I. A Ministry by Mercy (v. 1-2)

#### A. God gives the ministry (v. 1)

*Paul knew that God's call to ministry was an act of mercy from God – “by the mercy of God”. Every ministry is a gift of mercy from God & completely undeserved – “we do not lose heart”.*

#### B. Believers guard the ministry (v. 2)

*The believer must resist ungodly methods & unbiblical teachings (v. 2a-b). The believer must present the truth plainly & trust God for vindication with affirmation (v. 2c).*

***Every ministry is a gift of mercy from God that must be guarded carefully.***

### II. A Ministry of Light (v. 3-6)

#### A. The god of this world hides the light (v. 3-4)

*The gospel reveals the truth about sinners & Jesus – sin is spiritual darkness & the gospel is light. Masses of people cannot see & reject the truth of the gospel (v. 3; 1Co. 1:18-23) = “perishing”. Unbelievers are under Satan's influence & control (v. 4) – “god of this world”*

#### B. The God of glory reveals the light (v. 5-6)

*The gospel message is not about the human messenger, but about Jesus Christ as Lord of all creation & the messenger (v. 5). God who created light in the beginning has opened the believer's heart to see the truth/light about Jesus Christ as the Savior (v. 6) - MIRACLE.*

***The gospel light is shining & those who see it are miraculously blessed!***