

# Resurrection Life

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: MARCH 27, 2022

## God Expands the New Covenant Benefits Through Our Influence 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

*2 Cor. 4: 1-6 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 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. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

### The New Covenant determines the character of our influence

*2 Cor. 4:1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.*

- We are confidently optimistic because of the New Covenant (v. 1)
- We act honorably, without resorting to manipulation (v. 2a)
- We don't distort the message to make it more palatable (v. 2b)
- With God as our audience, we make our case so all can respond (v. 2c)

### Undaunted by opposition, we openly share the gospel so others can respond

*2 Cor. 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 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.*

*1 Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

## The Father partners with us, revealing himself through the gospel of Jesus

*2 Cor. 4:5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

- What is our role? (v. 5)
- What is the Father doing in the process? (v. 6)
- What happens as a result?

*2 Cor.3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another...*

### Reflection & Discussion

1. Think of a time when you were disheartened in regard to sharing your Christian hope. What were the discouraging factors involved? Have those factors been addressed during our study in 2 Corinthians? How?
2. How does this passage clarify for you how to approach sharing about Jesus? Are there any traps you've fallen into in this regard?
3. How did God first "shine in your heart" the light of his glory in the face of Jesus? How does that experience shape the way you share with others?
4. Spend time praying through this passage. Pray for those people in your life who have yet to turn to the Lord.

### SONGS

"FOUND IN YOU" - Paul Baloche and Andi Rozier

"MY TESTIMONY" - Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, and Tiffany Hammer

"WHO YOU SAY I AM" - Reuben Morgan, Ben Fielding

"JESUS PAID IT ALL" - Elvina M. Hall

### BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 32,814.43

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$397,195.33

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$433,166.00