

Blinded by “*the god of this World*”

V. 1. “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not: (V. 2) *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.* (v. 3) *but if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:* (v. 4) *In whom **the god of this world** hath **blinded** the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them,” 2 Cor. 4:1-4.*

Only those who were born blind, or later lost their sight, can really understand what it means to be physically blind. However, physical blindness is not nearly so bad as spiritual blindness. In fact, having lived in Louisville, Kentucky for six years, and having assembled in a meeting house only blocks away from the School for the Blind enabled me to realize that many who are physically blind are nonetheless able both to enjoy life and to live very productive lives. We had blind people who were members of the church, and two of them regularly brought their seeing-eye dogs to worship. I must confess that, if attendance were the only barometer by which to measure faithfulness, then those two dogs were more faithful than some of the members!

Losing one’s eyesight has to be a great loss. But it is not nearly so great a tragedy as that of being blind spiritually. However, that was a common problem in the days of Christ’s earthly ministry, and it is a common problem in this century. In John 12:14 Jesus described some of the Pharisees as being “*blind leaders of the blind.*” In Matthew 23:14 He described the scribes and Pharisees as being “*blind guides.*” In Matt. 13:14-15 Jesus referred to those who had hearts to understand, but did not understand; they had ears to hear, but they did not hear; they had eyes to see, but which they had closed “*lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted...*” But their hearts were “*waxed gross,*” their ears were “*dull of hearing,*” and they had “*closed*” their eyes. Among other things, these people were spiritually blind; they were suffering the worst form of blindness possible.

In our opening text, 2 Cor. 4:1-4, the apostle Paul mentioned “*them which believe not,*” and he stated that their “*minds*” had been “*blinded*” by “*the god of this world.*” Herein Satan is aptly described as “*the god of this world.*” In John 12:31; 14:30, and John 16:11 he is also called “*the prince of this world.*” Be not deceived, Satan is able to adapt himself to any person’s situation, even to the point of being “*transformed into an angel of light,*” 2 Cor. 11:14. After all, “*he was a murderer from the beginning,*” “*he is a liar, and the father of it,*” John 8:44, and In I Peter 5:8 he is called “*your adversary*” and likened to a “*roaring lion*” who “*walks about, seeking whom he may devour.*” He continually pursues his devilish goal of so influencing our lives so that we might “*spend eternity*” with him in that awful place “*prepared for the devil and his angels,*” Matt. 25:41! And one of his most successful methods is that of “*blinding the minds*” of people. In fact, that was his method with “*mother Eve;*” she was “*deceived,*” I Timothy 2:14, and Satan did the deceiving, Genesis 3:1-6. Yes, Eve answered truthfully when she said “*the serpent* (Satan) *beguiled me, and I did eat,*” Gen. 3:13.

How Does Satan Blind The Minds of People?

There are many ways, we shall mention but a few. He blinds people through:

1. The things of the world. Please note I John 2:15-17: “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* (v.

16) *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (v. 17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*” Indeed, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life can be very attractive, causing people to lose sight of the eternal glories of heaven, while being lured by the passing pleasures of sin.

2. Their families. Jesus said *“A man’s foes shall be they of his own household,”* and then He further explained, saying, *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of Me,”* Matt. 10:36-37. Think of the multitudes who have been exposed to the truth of God’s word, but refused to obey it, saying *“what’s good enough for mom and dad, what’s good enough for grandma and grandpa,”* etc., is good enough for me.” So often, when there is a conflict between what Jesus teaches and what mom and dad believe, Satan, the great deceiver, comes off as the winner!

3. Their peers. *“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits,”* I Cor. 15:33. Metaphorically speaking, people who “run with the dogs” generally wind up with “the fleas.”

4. Creating Doubt. He did this to Eve in the beginning. He sought to create doubt regarding what *“God said,”* and thereby *“deceived”* Eve, I Tim. 2:14. In today’s world he often creates doubt through well-educated, unbelieving professors in our modern universities, as well as infidel preachers.

5. Through Prejudice. Solomon said *“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him,”* Prov. 18:13. To answer *“a matter before”* one hears it is to pre-judge, or to manifest prejudice. An example of this occurred during the life of Jesus, for Philip said to Nathanael *“we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph,”* John 1:45. And Nathanael’s immediate response was to ask the question, *“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth,”* John 1:46. In this case the very Person of Jesus was pre-judged because of where He was from! Jesus was *“the Master Teacher,”* cf. John 7:46; yet countless people rejected Him because He did not fit their pre-conceived concept regarding the nature of the kingdom He came to set up.

6. Through False Teachers! Peter expressed it this way: *“But there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction,”* 2 Peter 2:1. Hence, John said *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world,”* I John 4:1. Regardless of who the preacher is, we must compare what he preaches with what the Bible teaches! Cf. Acts 17:11; I John 4:1; I Thess. 5:21.

To What Has “The god of this world Blinded the minds of People?

1. To the Goodness of God! As the song says, *“God is so good!”* This is evidenced by such scriptures as John 3:16; Titus 2:11-12; Heb. 2:9. Yet this fact is not reflected in the lives of multitudes whose eyes have been blinded by Satan!

2. To their own spiritual condition, including both *“alien sinners,”* and erring children of God, whose souls are often stained with sin, but who are bloated with pride because they are *“not as bad”* as certain perceived *“hypocrites in the church.”*

3. To the Sinfulness of Sin! In fact, as many perceive it, it is difficult to find a real

“sinner” these days. Drunkenness is called a “disease,” one who uses profanity is often called “a good entertainer,” a rebellious child is simply “strong willed,” homosexuals are called “gay,” while those who oppose such are regarded as “homophobic!”

4. The Way of Salvation, 2 Cor. 4:3-4. “The bottom line” is this: Satan does not want people to believe the truth! Cf. Luke 8:12

5. To Personal Responsibility. Responsibility to obey the gospel, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, to live lives according to the gospel, Tit. 2:12, to help build up the church, Eph. 4:16, to teach the lost, 1 Peter, 3:15, etc.

6. The Certainty of the Judgment to come. Judgment day is coming, 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12; Heb. 9:27. Yet Satan has so blinded the minds of multitudes that they are completely oblivious to the fact that some day they must “*give account*” of themselves before the great Judge of the universe!

Conclusion: Dear reader, has “*the god of this world*” blinded **your** eyes? Make it a point to meditate daily on the word of God, Psa. 1:1-3; by so doing “*the eyes of your understanding*” will be “*enlightened,*” Eph. 1:18. Don’t let Satan have his way **with you!**
B.W.
