

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Sunday, August 17, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why has the god of this world blinded the minds of unbelievers?

Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers because they have not believed in God and “to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

2. What can unbelievers do in order to see the glory of Christ with their minds?

Repent of their unbelief and turn from their disobedience of God; begin believing in God and what the Bible teaches about God and Jesus Christ.

3. Since Paul did not teach about himself to draw people to himself, who did he teach about and why did he teach about someone other than himself?

Paul proclaimed and taught about Jesus Christ as Lord, and he did so for Jesus’ sake (see 2 Corinthians 4:5, 11) and for the sake of others so more people would come to believe in and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and God would receive more glory and thanksgiving (2 Corinthians 4:15).

4. How can someone learn more about God?

We can learn more about God by studying the Scriptures and learning more about Jesus Christ who is in the image of God. We can get to know Jesus better personally with the help of the Holy Spirit within us (see also 2 Corinthians 4:6).

5. Paul suffered in many ways; how did his afflictions have an effect on his faith in Jesus and his daily life?

Paul did not lose heart, and he was not crushed, driven to despair, forsaken, or destroyed. The life of Jesus was made visible in his body, and some came to believe in

Jesus as a result. He kept believing and preaching about Jesus according to the Scriptures. He had faith he would be raised from the dead by Jesus along with other Christians, and they would come into the presence of Christ together. In spite of his afflictions and persecution for his faith, Paul kept preaching and teaching so many might come to believe in Jesus and give thanks to God. He considered his afflictions slight and momentary compared to what Jesus had prepared for him and all who trust in Jesus as Lord.

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