

Discussion Questions

Living Out Your Faith in Uncertain Times

Be Authentic—Let His Light Shine through You

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

1. What has been the biggest change in American culture since you were a child?

What was the best change you have seen in your lifetime?

What do you think has had the worst effect on America's Godly heritage?

2. *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.* **Isaiah 9:2**

How would you describe the people Isaiah described as "walking in darkness"?

What was the "shadow of death" that the prophet talks about?

What was the "light" that "has dawned"?

3. How does God's mercy (vs. 1) give us the ministry that Paul wrote about? What is being implied about our purpose in Christ because God's mercy?

What possible situation do you think Paul could be referring to as he encourages the Corinthians not to "lose heart"? What is the "therefore" there for? (What is in the previous section that applies to this verse?)

4. What confidence does John tell us (1 John 4:4) we have in spite of all the troubles we may face in this world? What is our source of confidence as we face oppression, difficulties, and spiritual resistance in our lives?

5. What was the time that Jesus was warning His followers about in John 16:32-34?

Why were the disciples be hiding in their homes?

What contrast to the world's troubles does Jesus offer?

How did Jesus overcome the world?

6. What did Paul and Silas say to the Philippian jailor to persuade him his situation was not worth killing himself over? (Acts 16:25-40)

Who was persuaded by the jailor's conversion?

What did Paul and Silas do after their release from prison? (Acts 16:40)

When in your experience has the Lord provided a happy ending to a bad turn of events?

When should Christians stand up for justice and their rights?

When should Christians give up their legal rights for the sake of Christ?

What can you pray about this week to put a check on evil in your place of work, neighborhood, or community?

7. When things are really getting bad all around us and sin is pouring in on every side, what comes to the rescue according to Romans 5:20?

8. How are some Christians to deceptive with the Gospel?

What part of the Gospel message typically gets left out when some churches and pastors do not give the full Gospel message?

9. What must go missing from the Christian's life according to Ephesians 5:1-3?

10. What end result does Peter say comes from the Believer's integrity?
(1 Peter 1:12)

11. Why do some people resent the Light of Christ according to John 3:19?

12. There's one thing that impresses the world more than anything that the church can do, and that is compassionate service to those in need. How does serving other people show the Light of Jesus in the Christian's life?

What character qualities are required for servant-hood?

13. What is the opposite of transparency in our lives?

How does honesty and humility in spite of our weaknesses make us strong?

Why does Paul call us jars of clay?

What treasure does he say is in these earthen jars?

14. What is Paul's boast in 2 Corinthians 12:5? And what is yours?

15. How does Luke 6:27-28 tell us to treat those who are opposed to us, the Gospel, and who ridicule us?

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