

Coming Back from Discouragement
2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Pew Bible p. 965
September 11, 2022

I. Losing Heart (V. 1-2)

A. Coming back from discouragement starts with believing in the gospel.

1. Changing the message of the gospel is not a sign of intelligence, but of discouragement.
2. There is a difference between creativity and cowardice.

II. Losing Hope (V. 3-4)

A. Coming back from discouragement means not being surprised at the presence of darkness in the world.

1. There is a difference between being grieved by darkness and being discouraged by darkness.
2. Indifference to darkness is just as bad as discouragement.
3. Remember there is darkness in the church as well.

III. Losing Self (V. 5-6)

A. Coming back from discouragement is realizing it is not about us.

1. To be personally offended by failure implies personal pride in success.
2. Having the light of Christ comes with a responsibility to shine before others.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.
2. Have you ever been discouraged as a Christian? Why? What are some negative side-effects to discouragement for a Christian, especially concerning verse 2?
3. What are some ways discouraged Christians can arm themselves against discouragement, according to verses 1-2? What are some ways you have overcome discouragement?
4. What are some ways Christians try to change the gospel? Why?
5. Should the fact that Satan often blinds the minds of nonbelievers, as verse four says, keep Christians from speaking the gospel? Why?
6. If someone rejected a Christian for sharing the gospel and that Christian became personally offended at the non-Christian, what does that say about the Christian's expectations? How does verse 5 help with that situation?
7. Should we spread God's light even in situations when we know people are going to reject Him, according to verse 6? Why?
8. Pray for our church, that God would guard us against discouragement, especially the kind of discouragement that would cause us to tamper with His Word. Consider attending the church prayer meeting every Sunday at 7 pm. Register at the church website at www.apollobaptist.org.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Numbers 14-17

September Memory Verses: Numbers 16:46-50

Romans 10:10-12

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

If you have not done so already, please register from the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. Register with your name and email address. This registration will last through 12/25/2022. Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- PRAYING for our Spanish Ministry's outreach event on Saturday to reach Spanish speakers in our community.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain, Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia, Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand, Jules S. in Thailand, and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an on-line setting, or a home school setting our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Louise R. (husband), Ed G. & family (mother), family of Phyllis W., Paul W. & family (aunt), family of Joan S., Anne W.-B. & family (husband), Sherri O. (uncle), and Barbara K. (husband)
- Those struggling with on-going health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues), Leon V. (chemo), Ken & Darlene R. (health issues), Twila D. (serious health issues), Wayne D. (declining health), Debbie B. (radiation treatments), Debbie P. (health issues), Ann C.-W. (health issues), John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues), Michelle La (health issues), Jim M. (recovery from arm injury & surgery), and Mary R. (transplant recovery)
- Others that you are aware of