

**Lesson 7**  
**The Nature of the Ministry**  
**2 Corinthians 4:1-6**

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**I. Paul's attitude toward ministry (4:1-2)**

**A. Paul's ministry (4:1a)**

- Paul acknowledges that they have the \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. God's mercy (4:1b)**

- The ministry was given to Paul in spite of \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Paul's attitude (4:2)**

**1. The renouncing of shameful ways (4:2a)**

- Paul renounced the \_\_\_\_\_ used in handling the gospel.

**2. The proper handling of the gospel (4:2b)**

- Paul states that they present the gospel in truth before \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question:**      How does Paul's ministry contrast with the practices of evangelists who discredit the gospel?

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**II. The Nature of ministry in the world (4:3-4)**

**A. The world's blindness to the gospel (4:3)**

- The gospel is hidden from those \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. The source of the blindness (4:4a)**

- Satan has blinded their eyes to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question:**      How does an understanding of the blindness of the lost help us in knowing how to pray for their salvation?

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**C. The reason for the blindness (4:4b)**

- Their eyes are blinded to keep them from \_\_\_\_\_.

### **III. The responsibility of ministry (4:5-6)**

#### **A. The object of their ministry (4:5)**

##### **1. Not themselves**

- The focus of their ministry was \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question:** Is it possible for ministry to exist solely for the benefit of the minister?

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##### **2. Jesus Christ**

- Paul states that the focus of their ministry was \_\_\_\_\_.

##### **3. Their true condition**

- Paul stated that they were slaves to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **B. Light in the Midst of Darkness (4:6)**

##### **1. The picture of creation**

- Paul reminds the reader that God brought light into darkness at \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:2-4

##### **2. Spiritual light**

- Paul tells us that God brought light into our lives with \_\_\_\_\_.