

## **BLINDED BY THE GOD OF THIS AGE**

(2 Cor. 4:1-6)

### **Introduction:**

1. A little context concerning the “veil”. Israel were too afraid to be in the presence of God and thus Moses was their specially chosen prophet (Ex. 20:21). God commanded a veil between the people and Himself (26:31-35). When Moss asked to see the glory of God his face shone as a result, but it frightened the people and thus he donned a veil (34:29-35). The veil was made and installed in the Tabernacle (Ex. 36, 40). At the death of Jesus, the veil was torn from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51).
2. Consider that context with our reading of 2 Cor. 4:1-6 = those who handle the word of God deceitfully, those who do not believe the Gospel, and those who reject the “Light” from God have a veil over their eyes (blinded by the devil).
3. Let us consider this morning how the god of this age has blinded (veiled) so many before the cross, at the cross, and even after the cross.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. Before the Cross (Eph. 2:1-3).**

- A. The stage was set with our creation and placement within the physical universe (Gen. 1, 2).
  1. We were created as free moral agents in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-31).
  2. We were then presented with the choice of choices; serve God’s will or our own (Gen. 2:15-17).
  3. Unfortunately we chose poorly and have been doing so consistently since (Gen. 3ff).
- B. The “god of this age” blinded us in the garden and continues to do so today.
  1. Age = *aion* = forever, eternity, the world, universe, a period of time, age-Thayer.
  2. In what way is Satan the “god of this age”? Consider Matt. 4:9; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; but don’t forget John 8:42-44.
  3. In our passage, we note Satan referred to as “the prince of the power of the air who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). Demons were believed to live in the atmosphere and thus “power of the air”. Compare with Eph. 6:12.
- C. Satan “blinds” us by getting us to forget God and to pursue those things that are contrary to God’s will but in conjunction with our own (Gen. 3:5; 4:8; 1 Sam. 15:9; 1 Kings 12:26-33; et al; all according to the truth of Jas. 1:13-21).
- D. Let us read our passage again (Eph. 2:1-3).

#### **II. At the Cross (2 Cor. 4:1-6).**

- A. The world in general and the Jews in particular did not see Jesus as the fulfilled promise of God that He was (Gen. 3:15; 12:3).
  1. The world in general was not looking for the fulfillment of the promise, but was busy about the world’s business (blinded by the god of this age). Busy building empires, subduing other people, and pursuing their own lusts (2 Cor. 4:2 = the hidden things of shame). The world in general had forgotten God and replaced Him with “gods” of their own creation (Rom. 1:23).
  2. The Jews in general, although looking, also failed to see Jesus as the Christ. They were busy scheming for their own fulfillment, seeking power over other people, and pursuing wealth and the praise of men (blinded by the god of this age; unable to see because of the veil of Satan that was over their eyes).
- B. They were unable to see the light that was Jesus, because they did not want to see Him (John 11:45-50; 12:10).
- C. They wanted the king of the line of David, but not the suffering servant. They wanted salvation their way, not God’s way (Rom. 10:1-3). Many seek salvation, but stumble at the Christ.
- D. Let us read our passage again 2 Cor. 4:1-6.

### III. After the Cross (2 Pet. 1:9).

- A. Salvation has come down and the grace of God is offered to all! And yet, only a remnant of people will be saved. Why? Because many of those who do come to Jesus and obey, forsake their salvation along the road. They again become blinded by the god of this age, the veil descends again over their eyes, and they forget all that God has done for them in Christ Jesus.
- B. Many become shortsighted and not heaven-sighted. They exchange the lust of the eyes, flesh and pride of life for the peace and joy we enjoy and the glory to come. Truly, they fall for “fool’s gold” (Matt. 16:24-27).
- C. Many, like the dog and the sow (2 Pet. 2:19-22) return to the filth of sin after having been cleansed. Their final state is worse than their first (cp. Matt. 12:43-45; Heb. 10:26-39).
- D. Let us read our verse again 2 Pet. 1:9.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. The light of God has come into the world (John 1:9) and gives light to every man. But those who are under the veil cannot, do not see it/Him.
- 2. The devil has been very successful at blinding us by the old, tired tools of the lust of the flesh, eyes, and the pride of life.
- 3. Invitation.

### **MORE ON “BLINDED BY THE GOD OF THIS AGE”**

- 1. Consider Paul’s full use of veil imagery in 2 Cor. 3, 4.
- 2. The veil/blinding that Jesus spoke about in John 9:39-41.
- 3. People are blinded by worldly success (Ps. 73).
- 4. People are blinded by the many perceived means of salvation (Rom. 10:1-3; Jas. 2:5-13ff).
- 5. People are blinded by the distractions of the road to glory (2 Pet. 2:19-22; 2 Pet. 1:9; Matt. 16:26).
- 6. Some overarching principles = Jer. 10:23; Prov. 3; Ps. 27:1; 43:3; 56:13; 97:11; 119:105; John 1:4, 5.
- 7. Ultimate choice for all mankind = 1 John 1:5-10.