

WEEK 5 | *2 CORINTHIANS 4-5*

## GOSPEL INTEGRITY

It's funny. We're really no different to our unbelieving friends, colleagues and family, and yet we believe such hugely different things about life and death. In fact, some things we believe feel like they might put any normal, reasonable person off our message. Bits of the news may not seem to actually be GOOD.

What thing about the gospel, the message that **the one who died for sin is King**, is the most difficult for you to say to someone who doesn't already believe it?



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## THE PROBLEM THE GOSPEL ADDRESSES

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

1. Why might it be tempting to just 'clean up' the rough edges of the gospel a bit and make it more sensible so people can believe it?
2. What reasons does Paul give here for why that's not going to help?

The reason people don't believe the gospel is because of genuine spiritual warfare! Satan has blinded people, so trying to trick them into believing an edited gospel won't really address their problem! This spiritual blindness is going to be a problem for the spread of the good news.

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## THE SOLUTION THE GOSPEL OFFERS

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-7

3. Why do you think Paul refers to God creating light from nothing here?
4. What does that tell us about how someone makes the shift from unbelief to belief?
5. What role does the 'clay-like' nature of the messenger play in sharing the good news?

The gospel solution isn't clever arguments or brilliant messengers, but an unpopular message and fallible messengers. The weakness of the message and messenger, however, is how God makes it clear that when someone turns to him it's a miracle. It's an act of creation. God shines light into darkness, as he did in the beginning.

But there are still two big questions: what makes this news GOOD and why would we share it with people who may not like it?

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## THE DIFFERENCE THE GOSPEL MAKES

### Read 2 Corinthians 4:11-18

6. What impression do you get about what sharing the gospel with people was like for Paul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What from these verses shows that the gospel is good news that's genuinely worth sharing?

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:8-15

8. Christians through the ages have been willing to suffer persecution to share the gospel message. Pick out some bits of this passage that would compel people to do so.

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

9. What do these verses say about why it's good news for our friends, colleagues and family?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How would you feel about people you love having their sins against God counted against them? How would you feel about them being reconciled with God?

The good news is that **the one who is going to judge** the world for all the right and wrong that they've done is **the one who died** for all that wrong, and offers free reconciliation. This news is important, because those who refuse that reconciliation remain on bad terms with the great, forgiving judge and king - Jesus. When you realise that **the one who died for sin is King**, there's a call to respond and repent!