2 Corinthians 4:3-4
Eclipse In Focus!

“one heavenly body blocks light to/from another

(Relationally) = “to make someone or something seem less successful or important, by becoming more successful or important than they are”

...“any overshadowing or cutting off of light”

“a dimming or extinction, as of fame or glory”
The Gospel Is Veiled vs. 3

Veiled = “to hide the real nature of; mask”
Greek = “kekalummenon”
“keep hidden, secret, covered over”
“to hinder the knowledge of a thing”

Who’s doing the veiling? Vs. 4 “Satan blinds the minds of the unbelieving”
** so they cannot “connect the dots”
e.g. Cecile Richards CEO of PP on Charlottesville
What “Dots” Must Be Connected?

What does the darkness conceal?

God’s love (John 3:16)

God’s plan (2 Peter 3:9)

God’s salvation alone in Jesus Christ (John 14:6)

God’s coming Kingdom (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them” (Isaiah 9:2)
Vs. 4 – “Who **is** the image of God”

**Humanity** created **IN** the image of God

“And God **created** man in His own image; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27)

“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen” (1 Jn. 4:20).

Q: Who is “a brother?” 1 John vs. Jn 3:16, Mt. 5:44
Examples of Obscuring/Eclipsing God’s Glory in Christ

Despising/abusing what God created clouds His purposes ...

* desecrating creation / pollution
“creation groans and suffers” (Romans 8:22)
670,000 sewage / Tijuana
Behaviors That Block God’s Light

* black/blue/all lives matter
* murders, esp. same-race *(A. West) (91% black on black; 84% white on white)
* abortion: what “being” is it?
* transsexual revolution (confusion + rebellion)
* racism = hating what God has created
Preparing For The Battlefields

**Cultural level** – Romans 13:1,4 – responding to evil on a civic / national basis (e.g. WW II, Iraq/Iran) “Evil triumphs when good men do nothing.”

**Personal, spiritual battle level**

Spiritual, unseen dimensions – “for we struggle not against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12).

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:4).
Responding to a Hateful World

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His footsteps: “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.” When they heaped abuse on Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats, but entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:21-23).
How to Remove Impediments
To Son Light Shining...

1. Pray – James 5:16b

2. Comprehend, live Truth – Hebrews 4:12

3. Speak truth – (Matthew 5:16)

4. Trust God for timing and results (Prov. 3:5-6)