

Sunday series '**Come and See**'      Theme – '**The Lord called him to follow**'.

**Read 2 Corinthians 4: 1 – 6**      1. In the first verses Paul writes 'we have this ministry' (of the new covenant / of the good news of Jesus Christ) ... we do not use deception...or distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly...'

1a. What would you say was Paul's (and should be ours) prime objectives for delivering 'this ministry'?

1b. What reasons could there be for someone, in delivering this 'ministry', to use deception and distortion?

1c. Paul decided that 'setting forth the truth plainly' was the best approach. In following this teaching, some people see a need for caution or some caveats. What does your group think?

2. In verses 3 & 4 Paul writes of the gospel being 'veiled' and minds being 'blinded'.

2a. Is what Paul writes still relevant in our society today? If so, can you give any examples?

2b. In response to whatever examples you may have given, what, if anything, can we do to help remove the 'veil'?

3. In verses 5 & 6 Paul helpfully brings the focus back to Jesus, 'we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord'. It is the message not the messenger we are to promote.

3a. In delivering the gospel message, be it in a very small or large way, what position and attitude must we adopt in relation to whom we are talking?

3b. What are the sort of words and expressions we should use that will confirm this position and attitude to the person we are talking with?

3c. Think through and consider verse 6. Allow it to provide you with the confidence that God intended for our personal ministries.

**Read Matthew 9: 9 – 13**      4. Having received Paul's encouragement in the verses above to spread the good news, we now learn from Jesus.

4a. It seems likely that Matthew knew something about Jesus and of his ministry around the countryside before Jesus arrived at his booth? Would you agree, or did Matthew follow a complete stranger?

4b. Whatever Matthew had or had not heard about Jesus prior to their first meeting, it was insufficient to make him a believer. What changed this?

4c. What can we learn from this (and from Paul) about what is our role and what is God's role in the ministry of evangelism?