

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Confidence In Christ"
2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18
Study-4

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry:

Paul never lost his sense of the wonder as to the ministry. When Paul thought of the Gospel message, he saw an all-sufficient God that would do the impossible.

"The Judaizers" *Their major emphasis was that salvation was by faith in Christ, plus the keeping of the Law. They also taught that the believer is perfected in his faith by obeying the Law of Moses.*

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Refute False Teaching And Practices Through Exalting The Glorious Gospel Of Grace."

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| 1. Verses 12-17 | The Christian's Triumph |
| 2. Verses 1-6 | The Christian's Qualifications |
| 3. Verses 7-11 | The Christian's Inspiration |
| 4. Verses 12-18 | The Christian's Transformation |

1. Verses 12-17 The Christian's Triumph

2 Corinthians 2:12 Now Paul has just spoken about being misunderstood; In his travel plans, about how he would come, and then how quickly he would arrive. Then he left off with the restoration of a brother that has repented. **1 Corinthians 5**

1. Keep a loving concern for others: Don't take it personally!
2. A Forgiving heart: When a person repents, forgive them!

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Verses 12-13 Absence Of Titus: when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ (Transitional Passage)

Paul now shares a personal experience: that in his suffering, he found the sufficiency of Christ to be overabundant in his ministry.

and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,

We are learning the lesson in **1 & 2 Corinthians** that with "**Opportunities Comes Opposition.**"

2 Corinthians 2:13

I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother;
Paul was waiting to hear from Titus as to how the letter was received.
2 Corinthians 7:5-7

but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.
Paul did not stay and minister because his heart was so burdened.
Acts 20:1

2 Corinthians 2:14 – 7:4 Paul Defends and Describes The Ministry:

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God,
notice that in the adversity of life, Paul is thanking God!

Verses 14-16 The Triumph Of Jesus: who always leads us in triumph in Christ, - Notice Paul's faith and his assurance in Jesus Christ.

sweet aroma – This was the incense of the priest! This was taken from a **Roman triumphal return from battle.** (Paul, a member of God's army)

2 Corinthians 2:15 among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

Everyone joins the procession; which will it be?

2 Corinthians 2:16 one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. The incense in the Roman procession was a sweet smell to the victors, but it was a fragrance of defeat.

And who is adequate for these things? (Sufficiency Means Triumph)

2 Corinthians 2:17 Negatively: For we are not like many, peddling (Make Merchandise) the word of God,

Positively: but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

We are sun-judged by God. Our message is Christ.

2. Verses 1-6 The Christian's Qualifications

2 Corinthians 3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?
When we do share about ourselves, we can be misunderstood.

Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? The practice of Paul's day was to use letters of reference for ministers.

Acts 15:22-31; 18:27

Verses 2-3 Paul's Divine Reference: 2 Corinthians 3:2 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

Paul says the changed hearts and lives of the Corinthians are all that Paul needs to show authenticity.

2 Corinthians 3:3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, - Notice that Paul says it is manifested that you are a letter of Christ. (People Not Paper)

Internal Letter! (God the author, Paul the pen, Holy Spirit the ink, Paper the believers)

2 Corinthians 3:4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Notice where the confidence of Paul rested, not the people, but it was God!

2 Timothy 4:16-17

2 Corinthians 3:5 but our adequacy is from God, 1 Samuel 17:38-39

2 Corinthians 3:6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, - God is the one that equips us! He calls us. He schools us; He prepares us to share His grace!

not of the letter, (The Law) but of the Spirit; (Grace) for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

3. Verses 7-11 The Christian's Inspiration

2 Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, - This is referring to the Law. The purpose of the Law was to condemn us (Kill Us).

Exodus 34:29-35 Moses receives the Law a second time.

2 Corinthians 3:8 how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? We have the living God dwelling in us. The Law was powerless, but the Spirit is ever-changing us into His image.

2 Corinthians 3:9-11

4. Verses 12-18 The Christian's Transformation

2 Corinthians 3:12 Therefore (Law had Glory faded, Grace Superior) having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech,
The relationship that we have through Jesus Christ is glorious right now.

2 Corinthians 3:13 That as great as the work that God did through Moses was, it was a temporal experience.

2 Corinthians 3:14-17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; (Deity of the Holy Spirit)

(Salvation) and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

There is freedom; there is liberation—freedom from the Law freedom to live holy.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face

We, too, can enter the Holy of Holies to experience God.

the **mirror** - *is the Word of God.*

transformed - *the English word metamorphosis is a transliteration of this Greek word.*

from glory to glory, - Moses' glory was external, but ours is internal that can be seen externally.

"The Law can bring us to Christ, but only grace can make us like Christ!"

Application:

- 1. The Christian's Triumph:** Always victorious! Fight from victory.
- 2. The Christian's Qualifications:** Changed lives.
- 3. The Christian's Inspiration:** Not human effort but Grace.
- 4. The Christian's Transformation:** Inside out.