

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18

English Standard Version

2:12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, 13 my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our[a] hearts, to be known and read by all. 3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.[b] 4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

12 Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, 13 not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. 14 But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But when one[c] turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord[d] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,[e] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.[f] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Week Three
Finding Sufficiency in Doubts, Dilemmas & Defeats:
II Corinthians 1:12-2:18

Do you notice that you often face many emotions at one time? You can be on top of the mountain experiencing great victories while at the same time doubting your capacities to continue successfully. We can be celebrating great life accomplishments wondering if happiness will _____. While experiencing great joy, we can also experience feelings of doubts. Life is more _____ and, than either _____. This can get maddening: Happy and sad, bold and timid, faithful and _____, peace and _____ all swirling like a bad storm.

This was Paul's _____, and the setting of the scriptures we are studying.

Paul's Circumstances	Paul's Declarations
His spirit not at rest (2:13 a)	He is the aroma of Christ (1:15a)
His faith is weak, doubting his ability to fulfill is calling (1:16b)	He is commissioned by God (1:17b)
His authority as an Apostle questioned (3:1b)	He is bold and _____ (3:12)

Who is _____ for these things?

This question drives everything in our passage. It is one of the most important questions we will answer. Who is sufficient, capable, to stand _____ in this crazy world. We certainly can't _____ the _____ that surround us. We have admitted controlling our _____ is a battle that is hard to win. Whether things on the outside or the inside, if we were honest, we often doubt that we have what it takes to stand strong and _____ the victory.

Who is _____? Are we sufficient? I think we've answered that one. Then where do we find sufficiency? The answer is closer than you think. As followers of Jesus we have access to sufficiency. We can experience boldness and _____ in the midst of our doubts, _____ and _____. If we are to have this experience we are called to take two actions

Action 1: (2:14-17)
Join the

Action 2: (3:7-18)
Take off the



14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. **15** For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, **16** to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? **17** For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

The Arc of Titus

The picture above was taken in 2008 on my first trip to Rome. It's a picture of the Arc of Titus. This structure was built to commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Emperor Titus. The inscription on the Arc are scenes from Roman _____ that was held in the city following the victory. A Roman Triumph was one of the great occasions in ancient history. There were few scenes more _____ than a Roman Triumph. It was a parade through the city streets of Rome. The conquering General would sit a top his magnificent chariot. He was precede by priests swinging pots of _____ spreading a a beautiful fragrance throughout the city. In the rearview mirror of the General were the _____ of war, the defeated in chains. The victorious soldiers brought up the rear relishing their _____. The streets were filled with people celebrating the power and might of the _____. Our only comparable event maybe when our troops walked though the Arc of Triumph in Paris following their defeating the German Army. (See video) This is the scene that Paul is using in 2:12-17. He sees himself and us being part of such scene. Our _____ Christ is leading us in a triumphant procession through this world. When we join this triumphant procession we find that our _____ is found in Jesus. We realize truth that is greater _____ our _____ and feelings.

Join the Parade:

- Spread the _____ of Christ through a lifestyle of _____, surrendered to Jesus as a _____.
- Share the truth of what is going on in this _____.
 - The war is _____
 - Jesus is leading His church in a _____ March to the final decisive judgment.
 - All activity of Satan is fleeting
 - Jesus is inviting everyone in the world to join this celebration
 - Those that _____ the invitation are risking destruction
- Follow Jesus into the _____ standing against darkness, setting captives free, leading _____ and his demonic army to their certain end.

4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

The Old Covenant	New Covenant
Written with Ink. (3:3a)	Written by the _____ of God
Written On Stone (3:3b)	Written on Our Hearts
Ministry of Death (3:7)	Ministry of Life
Ministry of _____ (3:9)	Ministry of _____
Fading _____ (3:11)	Lasting _____

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not like Moses.....

Take Off The Mask:

- 1. Know that _____ through _____ can the veil be taken away. (3:14b)**
- 2. Lay down our dead _____ to earn God's love (3:15)**
- 3. Turn to Jesus trusting our lives to Him by _____ (3:16)**
- 4. Exercise our new _____ by gazing upon the _____ of the Lord regularly (3:18a)**
- 5. Allow the glorious Jesus to _____ us one _____ of glory at a time.**
- 6. Reflect the _____ of Jesus to a glory starved world**