

II Corinthians Series

Chapter 3

II Corinthians- Chapter 3

Background- Reading from Acts 18, apparently Paul reasoned for many weeks (v. 4) with the Jews in the synagogue. Clearly, he had to establish himself as a credible teacher, experienced in the ways of God. Their response as a group ultimately (v. 6) was that they opposed themselves. However, many Jews were convinced of his credentials and abilities, believed on Jesus Christ and helped grow the Church. These Jews did not respond well to what Paul had written in I Corinthians, and now Paul attempts to draw them back to the value of a personal relationship with the “Creator of the ends of the earth”, instead of just religious rules.

In other words, “Who do you think you are that you can tell us what’s right or not?”

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Key verse- v. 5 *“... but our sufficiency is of God.”*

Theme- The God of great sufficiency

In what way is God greatly sufficient for us?

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God gives us sufficient opportunity v. 1- 6

Paul's response was simple & sincere:

- The fact that they had a relationship with Christ provided all the credibility Paul & company needed v. 1
- Everything by which Paul had to minister was dedicated to them; everything was staked on their success v. 2
- The fact that they were responding to Christ in a personal way (not just by religious rules) and that they carried the Gospel of Christ to others, proved the effectiveness of Paul's ministry. v. 3
- They were being led by God, just like Paul & company v. 4
- It was not within Paul to have all things necessary for success, but God who calls, provides, directs and brings to fruition v. 5
- When God takes hold in a life, He will cause that person to minister life to others- that is the way of the Spirit v. 6

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- The Letter of the Law kills- v. 6
 - By not believing it yourself
 - By using it as a rule book by which to beat people up
 - By using it to justify being the “spiritual policeman”
 - By adding more rules, just because they helped you out of your particular sin
 - By not being passionate when teaching it

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If your sufficiency is of God, how effective is your Christian service?

What effort are you making to change the direction of some life from hell to heaven?

In what way are lives being changed by your efforts?

If you are ineffective, why are you ineffective?

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God's gives us sufficient ability v. 7- 16

Rules by their nature, reveal the character and essence of the Rulemaker. The Jews had a relationship with God which involved condemnation & the power of God to prove it true.

Knowing that God is trying to reach the whole world, an active, personal relationship is sufficient where just rules by themselves failed v. 7- 10

The Law was glorious, but having God give you sight, motivate you & guide you event by event is **shizam-o-fastic !!!!**
v. 11

God guiding you constantly, provides **HOPE**, because he doesn't just leave you by yourself to sink or swim, He is there all the time v. 12

The children of Israel could have this also, but they are blinded by the rules which Christ fulfilled v. 13- 16

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God's gives us sufficient ability

America is the same way with their general perception of what a “Christian” should be. A nice, religious person who should tolerate everything, including those things which would dishonor God, and bring about our own demise.

The devil loves this kind of thought process

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If your sufficiency is of God, how are you an able minister?

How does your life exhibit the power of God in a close relationship over than just religious rules?

How recently has this influenced someone's life?

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God's gives us sufficient leeway to use the talents and abilities that He gave us to accomplish His purpose. Liberty is FREEDOM.

Paul is making direct reference to what he wrote in I Corinthians 12: 4- 7. Everyone has different, productive machinery that is plugged into the same electricity of the Holy Spirit.

God gives us the direct contact through the Holy Spirit

- to lead
- to relate approval & disapproval

which when followed obediently, results in a clear view for others to see the way of God.

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When building a house, every discipline has different:

- Tolerances within which to work
- Methodologies
- Practices & procedures

But it all produces the same outcome-

Glory to GOD

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He will hold us accountable for:

What we do

and

How we do it

I Cor 10: 33 I Pet 2: 16

Because He is sufficient

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How confident are you in the freedom you have to be productive in the harvest field?

How confident are you to stand before God to give account of your effort to accomplish His will?