

2 CORINTHIANS

Sufficient in Christ

WEEKLY WORSHIP TOOLS

MARCH 21 - 27, 2020



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PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

SUFFICIENT AND DEPENDENT

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:1-11

This Sunday, Pastor Ken will preach from 2 Corinthians 3:1-11. We will discover that our sufficiency to minister to others is from God alone through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As you prepare your heart for our gathering, let this devotional from Paul Tripp point you to further dependence upon and delight in our glorious God.

Reflect: "Big Brains and Diseased Hearts"

Has your personal study of the Word of God informed and enlarged your brain without convicting and transforming your heart? When I was a younger pastor, I was exegeting my way through Romans, engulfed in an intoxicating world of language syntax and theological argument. I labored over tenses, contexts, objects, and connectors. I studied etymologies and the Pauline vocabulary. Countless hours of disciplined private study were represented by page upon page of notes. It was all very gratifying. I felt so proud that I had filled my notebook with copious notes on Romans. Then one evening, it hit me. It was a sweet moment of divine rescue by the Holy Spirit. I had spent hours each day for months studying perhaps the most extensive and gorgeous exposition of the gospel that has ever been written, yet I had been fundamentally untouched by its message. My study of the Word of God had been a massive intellectual exercise but almost utterly devoid of spiritual, heart-transforming power. You may never exegete an entire book of the Bible, but God does call you to be a diligent student of his Word. But here's the danger: because of remaining sin and self-righteousness, our study of Scripture could leave us with big theological brains and untouched and diseased hearts. Could I be describing you? Here are three signs of an untouched and diseased heart that I have experienced, even after studying passages that speak directly to these symptoms!

Anxiety - In Matthew 6, Christ asks his followers, "Why are you anxious?" He explains that it makes sense for the Gentiles (unbelievers) to be anxious because they don't have a heavenly Father, then reminds us that we have a Father who knows what we need and is committed to delivering it. As you study the Word of God and see evidence of his past, present, and future provision splashed across every page (Phil. 4:19, 2 Pet. 1:3, etc.), does it give your heart rest? If this theology informs your brain but does not capture your heart, the anxieties of life will likely influence how you live.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

SUFFICIENT AND DEPENDENT

Control

I am convinced that rest in this chaotic world, submission to authority, and a willingness to give and share control all arise from a sure knowledge that every single detail of our lives is under the careful administration of One of awesome glory. As you memorize verses like Daniel 4:35, Psalm 135:6, and Isaiah 46:10, does it create peace in your heart? When the theology of God's sovereignty moves beyond your brain and transforms your heart, you won't have to be in control of everything and everyone in your life.

Addiction

Whenever you ask creation to do what only the Creator can do, you are on your way to addiction. I'm not talking about life-destroying addictions that require a rehabilitation center, but anything (however small) that provides a temporary retreat or pleasure or buzz that you return to again and again. When the joy of Christ isn't ruling your heart, you are rendered more susceptible to some form of everyday addiction. As you study the Word of God, are you searching for heart and life-transforming pleasure? (The pleasure of knowing, serving, and pleasing Christ: see 2 Cor. 5:9, 1 Thes. 4:1, Eph. 5:10) Some Christians get way too much pleasure from being theogeeks! I am not suggesting at all that your Bible study cannot include any scholarly components. But whenever you search the Scriptures, it should be a time of worship and not just education. Each time you open the Word of God, you should be looking for your beautiful Savior, whose beauty alone has the power to overwhelm any other beauty that could capture your heart.

March 11, 2020 Devotional: "Big Brains and Diseased Hearts," in Wednesday Word, by Paul Tripp

Sing: Song List for Sunday

1. "Jesus Paid It All," by Passion
2. "Great Are You Lord," Arr. Shane & Shane
3. "He Will Hold Me Fast" Arr. Gettys
4. "Jesus Thank You," by Sovereign Grace Music

SERMON NOTES

SUFFICIENT IN CHRIST

God Enables Us to Minister the Gospel
2 Corinthians 3:1-11

Big Idea: God enables us to minister the life-giving message of the gospel.

I. God enables us to minister (3:1-6).

A. As Christ's servants (vv. 2-3)

1. Love motivates Christ's servants (v. 2b).
2. Transformational ministry is done through Christ's servants (v. 3).
 - Christ is the author (v. 3a)
 - We are the messengers (v. 3a)
 - The Holy Spirit writes on human hearts (v. 3bc)

B. With integrity (v. 2:17)

C. With confidence (vv. 4-6)

Why can we minister to others with confidence?

1. Christ's victory (2:14)

2 Corinthians 2:14

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.

2. God's enabling grace (vv. 5-6a)
3. The Holy Spirit's power (vv. 3, 6b)

SERMON NOTES

SUFFICIENT IN CHRIST

God Enables Us to Minister the Gospel
2 Corinthians 3:1-11

II. We minister the life-giving message of the gospel (3:6-11).

A. What is the new covenant (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Jeremiah 31:33-34)?

Ezekiel 36:25-27

- God cleanses us from sin (v. 25).

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
- God gives us a new heart (v. 26).

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
- God puts his Spirit in us (v. 27).

27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

B. What is the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant (vv. 3, 7-11)?

Old Covenant

- Engraved on stone tablets (v. 3, 7)
- Death-dealing written code (v.6)
- Ministry of condemnation (v. 9a)
- Abolished (v. 11a)

New Covenant

- Written on hearts-of-flesh tablets (v. 3)
- Life-giving Spirit (v.6)
- Ministry of righteousness (v. 9b)
- Permanent (v. 11)

Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OBJECTIVES

1. Pursue growth together.
2. Care for and connect with one another.
3. Recognize that God enables us to minister the life-giving message of the gospel.

DISCUSS

- Acknowledging new dynamics over video-call, begin with introductions. To help us rejoice with those who rejoice and bear each others' burdens, consider asking all to share a "high & low" [1 highlight & 1 lowpoint] from their experience this week.
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-11. Share how you were challenged or encouraged through this passage and this week's sermon.
- Before Christ came, God related to his people differently under the old covenant. Consider the following passages. What are some differences you observe between the old covenant and the new covenant? [See Jer. 31:31-34, Ezek. 36:26-27, Heb. 8:1-13]
- Where does our sufficiency to minister come from? Where doesn't our sufficiency come from? [vv. 4-6]
- How does v. 2 describe effective gospel ministry? What may effective gospel ministry look like for us in this time of social distancing?

PRAYER PROMPT

- Praise God that he has given believers access to His presence through the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for us as Americans to be truly humble and see our need for a rescuer.
- Pray for wisdom and open doors to faithfully serve as ministers of the gospel (for our church, our group, and us as individuals).

DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE

For Individual or Household Worship

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

GOSPEL MINISTERS

Because Paul's sufficiency to minister the the gospel comes from God and not from man, we can trust the message of the gospel he shared.

READ: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

- What is a letter of recommendation? Why do you think Paul called the Corinthians his "letter of recommendation?"
- From where did Paul's sufficiency to share the gospel come?
- Who has shared the gospel with you? With whom are you seeking to share the gospel?

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020

THE MINISTRY AND HOPE OF THE NEW COVENANT

This passage shows us that our good works could never fulfill God's requirements in the old covenant. Therefore, we need the ministry of the Spirit in the new covenant to make us sufficient to know God and minister to others.

READ: 2 Corinthians 3:7-11

- Count how many times the word "glory" is used. What does "glory" mean? [awesome, magnificence]
- How does Paul compare the glory of the new covenant with the glory of the old covenant?
- How are you encouraged to minister as a result of the new covenant's glory?

DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE

For Individual or Household Worship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

PROMISES OF THE NEW COVENANT

Before Christ came, God related to his people differently under the old covenant. Christ established God's promised new covenant with his people. In the new covenant, God gives his people a new heart and his Spirit in order to live a life that is pleasing to him.

READ: Ezekiel 36:26-27

- What does God promise to give us through the new covenant?
- For what purpose does he promise to do this?
- Why do we need a new heart and His Spirit within us?

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

GOD IS OUR FAITHFUL REFUGE

Psalm 46 is a celebration hymn about Zion, the special city where God dwells among His people. This Psalm celebrates God as the mighty fortress of refuge for His people and looks forward to the exaltation of God among all the nations.

READ: Psalm 46

- What attributes of God are described in this passage?
- What activities of God are displayed?
- How do God's attributes and activities give us confidence against fear in times of trouble?

DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE

For Individual or Household Worship

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE LORD

When Moses heard and saw God's glory, Moses reflected God's glory. Paul tells us that the ministry of the new covenant is superior to Moses' glory because we have a ministry of the Spirit by the gospel (2 Cor. 3:7-11).

READ: Exodus 34:29-35

- What made the face of Moses shine brightly? Why did Moses veil his face from the people?
- How may we experience the glory of God's presence today? (See 2 Cor. 3:16-18)