

POWER IN WEAKNESS: Heart-level Transformation is How the Gospel Works

October 31, 2021

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live and share Him.

October Memory Verse (2 Corinthians 1:5) For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Introduction: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Big Idea: The gospel is meant to bring about heart-level change --Unless the _____ changes, _____ CHANGES!

Paul explains his life (ministry) credibility -- Gospel ministry is not mere _____ it changes the _____. (1-3)

- Paul didn't present a reference letter to prove credibility; his letter was the Corinthians.
- The false teacher's commendation was _____; Paul's was divine.

Paul details his confidence in Gospel ministry --Heart-level transformation is _____ (4-6)

- " _____ " is *pepoithēsis* (πεποιθησις)
 - a previous process of being completely persuaded with a present reality of a confirmed and settled state of utter assurance
- " _____ " is *hikanos* (ικανός)
 - competent
 - God the Holy Spirit makes us competent to become ministers of the new covenant

Life Lessons:

#1-Without the Holy Spirit unleashing the gospel in my life – **Unless the heart changes, NOTHING CHANGES!**

#2-God has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant. **When the heart changes, MINISTRY HAPPENS!**

Connect Card: What heart-level change is going on in your life today?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

WARM UP: How has the gospel transformed or changed you?

v. 1-3

- Paul asks, “are we beginning to commend ourselves again?” Was he? If so, why?
- How were the Corinthians themselves a witness to Paul’s sincerity and credibility?
- How can the testimony of a person be more powerful than a written letter as a reference?

v. 4

- Where does Paul get his confidence?
- Is confidence good or bad? What is the difference between self-confidence and confidence in God?

v. 5 God transformed Paul and his team, turning them into diplomats of heaven (ministers of new covenant). It wasn’t because of their educational background. It was because Jesus transformed them. And Jesus sent the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who would empower them for this ministry.

- Where does Paul’s sufficiency or competence come from?
- What does John 15:5 teach us?

v. 6 The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life – The old covenant acted as a mirror to reveal our sin. The new covenant offers a permanent solution to that sin in Christ. The law condemns because no one can keep it all the time. But the blood of Jesus cleanses our sins and sets us free, giving us new life.

- What does it mean “made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant”?
- Why does the letter kill? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/old-covenant.html>)
- How does the Spirit give life? (Read and discuss these verses)
 - 2 Peter 1:3
 - Colossians 1:19
 - Philippians 4:13

Wrap Up: Discuss how self-confidence instead of God-confidence might manifest itself in our lives?

- Lack of prayer. If we trust in our own abilities, we will not come before God and petition for His help nearly as much as we should.
- Lack of preparation. If we trust in our own skills, we may think we have mastered something and don’t need to prepare properly.
- Stress and anxiety. Because we think that our fate is in our own hands it will rob us of peace and cause more nerves and stress.

CLOSING PRAYER: Thank you Father for your promises (covenants) to us. Change us at the heart-level and thank you for making us competent ministers of the new covenant. Enable us to be effective in our service to others for your glory and fame.