



**SONS & DAUGHTERS**  
**Triumphant Gospel**  
**Week 10**

**Opening prayer**

**Prayer for the persecuted church:**

**Prayer for a local church:**

This morning we pray for our brother Bob Warning and Crossway Church in Menifee.

**Closing prayer**

## **Introduction:**

- Rex's Adoption Date (November 2)

Even though I know that God directs our paths, I found it hard to believe that He

orchestrated all this. Because it's too wonderful. It's almost as if there is a God who loves me, but I know that can't be the case because I know myself.

Have you ever had something wonderful happen, but you questioned whether God was responsible for it?

Most of us have a hard time believing God will use us right now the way we are — weak and sinful.

- That's why we have the gospel. That's why the author of Hebrews says, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)
- That's why we need to be reminded that we are not spiritual orphans, but sons and daughters of the King of All Creation.
- Rex making breakfast - he's barely two-years old - he can't make breakfast, but she uses him anyway.

**This idea that God won't use us until we've been more perfected, until we're holier, highlights one of the false ideas we have about ministering to people. We think God is prepping us, making us strong so that we can minister in our strength. That is just not true. If God made you strong, why would you need to trust Him?**

**I was wondering why my live sermons are always longer than my run-throughs during the week. And this week, I believe I have a clue as to why. Here's what I think. The**

working of the Spirit comes when we're engaged in ministry. That accounts for the different lengths.

It's His strength we need for ministry, not ours. Are you sitting back, waiting until you're stronger or more knowledgeable before you launch out in ministry? Before you help or share the gospel?

God uses us in our weakness. That's the only way He uses us. That's why we focus on the gospel, because we know our weakness and

sin and we need the renewal the gospel brings every day. That's why the gospel is an impetus for evangelism. The gospel is a propulsion for evangelism.

**Big Idea: The gospel is not just for us, but is meant to be given away.**

So, we're going to look at a few verses in Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church, a group of believers who were far from perfect. But

what's interesting in the verses we're going to be looking at is the Apostle Paul himself.

## **2 Corinthians 2:12-16**

**<sup>12</sup> When I came to Troas (Tro-oz) to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, <sup>13</sup> 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.**



I think a lot of us, without thinking about it, we deify Paul. Because God used him to write the inspired Word of God, somehow we elevate Paul to the level of perfection, like he was sinless.

But here we see his wonderful humanity. The door was opened for the gospel to be preached in Troas (Tro-oz). God provided a great opportunity for him. Now, you would think Paul, who often seems rather bold, would just forge ahead without any ministry partner. But no. Since he can't find his friend,

his ministry partner Titus, he moves on. This is fantastic. Paul implies he missed an opportunity to preach the gospel. How does Paul respond to a lost opportunity?

**<sup>14</sup> 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.**

He thanks God. He basically says, “If I missed the opportunity in Troas, well, I know that God always leads us in triumphal procession —

that's the gospel's triumph he's talking about here — so that I can spread the fragrance of Christ in Macedonia. Because no matter where I go, the gospel is triumphant.”

Paul did not waver from the facts of the gospel. He thanks God that because we are in Christ we are always being led in triumphal procession. The gospel is always triumphant in our lives, isn't it? Is there a day when the death of Christ wasn't enough for your sins? Is there a day when the resurrection power of

**the Holy Spirit is less powerful? There are two aspects to this, one internal and one external.**

**Internally, we know the end of the story. We know how things are ultimately going to go down. God will not be mocked. His truth will be shown to be the Truth. Christ as God in the flesh, creator of all things, judge of the living and the dead, everyone will bow down before Him. And we know that we will not be condemned because the gospel is always triumphant in our lives.**

That's what Paul said here.

Now, because of this inward reality, outwardly  
His life had a certain quality.

**<sup>15</sup> For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <sup>16</sup> to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?**

**The gospel is not just for us, but is meant to be given away.**

**Right here, again, he shows us his humanity. “Who is sufficient for these things?” Who on his own can walk around like he’s the aroma of Christ? Do you know that sometimes you are the fragrance of death to people? There’s something about you that attracts some people and repels others. Is that something you turn off or on? I know I don’t. “Who is sufficient for these things?” Clearly, none of us are sufficient for these things.**

That's why just a few verses later he points us back to Christ.

## **2 Corinthians 3:4-5**

**<sup>4</sup> Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,**

We have not made ourselves sufficient. The gospel makes us sufficient. Christ makes you

**sufficient. The gospel is not just for us, but is meant to be given away.**

- **Graphic**
- **Why the last sermon in this series is going to propel us into our fall series — Life as Mission**