

Who is Sufficient

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 2:12-3:6.

B. Paul was unable to take advantage of an opportunity for the gospel because he was so troubled.

II. Paul declares Christ to be his sufficiency despite his despair.

A. Christ always leads in triumph.

1. This was like a ticker-tape parade in celebration.

2. Paul juxtaposes this remarkably with his despair.

B. Believers are a fragrance of Christ.

1. A fragrance was spread in a Roman celebratory parades that was a fragrance of victory for the winners and a fragrance of death for the vanquished.

2. Wherever Paul went, God could smell the sweetness and beauty of Christ over what he was doing.

3. Paul's work was also a fragrance to men of Christ.

4. Paul knew that his product did not rest on his feeble efforts but on the expectation that God was going to do something for him.

C. Many think that the victorious Christian life means that nothing will ever get to a person, but Paul knew that God was carrying out His purpose through his weaknesses.

1. The victorious Christian life is a life of weakness.

2. The believer goes from one battle to the next with little reprieve.

3. Yet the triumph is occurring.

D. Paul claimed that he was not a peddler of the Word.

1. Many today hock peripheral things from God's Word, but Paul was not like this.

2. Others pose as biblical scholars dispensing theological garbage.

3. Every Christian ought to help one another grow up and be mature Christians, instead.

E. Paul spoke with authority—in Christ.

1. It is hopeless to look to secular authority for the world's problems.
2. Man needs truth and light.

Application questions:

1. When have you felt less than victorious in the Christian life with regard to your ministry towards others?

2. How does Paul's example demonstrate the difficulty of seeing Christian victory?

3. What is the role of weakness in the Christian life? Explain.
