



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 7
The week of January 10, 2020

The Triumph
2 Corinthians 2:14-17; 3:4-18

This week we look to the book of 2 Corinthians and selected verses from chapters 2 and 3. In these verses we'll see sharp contrasts that the Apostle Paul brings out to describe our identity in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in the new covenant contrasted to the Mosaic covenant. Our hope is that you are encouraged and empowered in your faith as we open up God's word together.

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

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. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

1. The apostle Paul uses Roman military language to describe God's power and triumph in our lives. Why would Paul use this language and what is the picture that he is trying to paint for those who received his letter?

In what sense is the church "prisoners" in Christ's triumph?

2. We are called "the aroma of Christ." What did Paul mean by this and how does that translate into our life as a Christian?

3. At the end of this passage, Paul speaks about those who are “peddlers of God’s Word” and contrasts true Christ followers against that. What kinds of people is he referring to and are they influential in any way in our world today?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

4. In what sense is a Christian a minister of the new covenant?

Regardless of vocation, what are the priorities and responsibilities that come with that commissioning?

5. By what means did God make it possible for us to be ministers of a new covenant?
6. In verse 7, Paul refers to the 10 commandments (carved in letters on stone) as the “ministry of death.” Are we as Christians to set aside the teaching of the 10 commandments (*NO*)? Why or why not?

What does Matthew chapter 5 have to bring in our understanding of this concept?

7. What is the ministry of righteousness that Paul refers to in this passage?

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

8. Given the verses that we've already covered, why does Paul call us to boldness?

What does boldness in faith look like in your life?

9. What is the veil that Paul refers to in these verses and why do the Jewish people still have it on to this day?

10. How are we being transformed into the image of Christ?

How have you seen that take place in your life?

11. How does the freedom Paul speaks of in this passage contrast to the image of prisoners in a Roman Triumph from chapter 2?

How does that inform your Christian witness and your understand in of God's grace?

Sermon Notes: *The Triumph*

2 Corinthians 14-17, 3:4-18

THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, January 10 thru Saturday, January 16, 2021

Job 24-28, Job 29-31, Job 32-34, Job 35-37, Job 38-39,
Job 40-42, Genesis 12-15,