

The Ministry is Powerful

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Wednesday evening, December 15, 2010

2 Corinthians 1-7: The Ministry Explained

2 Corinthians 8-9: The Ministry of Giving Encouraged

2 Corinthians 10-13: The Ministry Enforced

1. The Ministry of Explained (2 Corinthians 1-7)

A. The Suffering of the Ministry (1:1-2:13)

B. The Glory of the Ministry (2 Corinthians 2:14-7:16)

1. The Ministry is Victorious (2:14-17)
2. The Ministry is Transforming (3:1-18)
3. **The Ministry is Powerful (4:1-18)**

The Ministry is Powerful (4:1-18)

1. The “ministry” (4:1) can be difficult “We faint not” (4:1, 16; Luke 18:1).
2. The ministry, however, is both victorious (2:14-17) and transforming (3:1-18).

1. The Ministry is Powerful In Spite of Our Opponents (4:1-6)

A. Opponents of False Teachers (4:2)

1. False teachers’ motives are dishonest “dishonesty.”
2. False teachers’ methods are underhanded “craftiness.”
3. False teachers’ message is deceitful “deceitfully.”

B. Opponent of Satan (4:3-6)

1. Satan blinds sinners (4:3-4)
2. God sends the light (4:5-6)
 - a. The light of the Gospel is “glorious.” More glorious than the Law of Moses.
 - b. The light of the Gospel is “Christ who is the image of God.”
 - c. The light of the Gospel is “preached” (4:5). Our message is Christ centered.
 - d. The light of the Gospel is served “for Jesus sake.” Our motives must be pure.
 - e. The light of the Gospel “shines into our hearts” just like at creation.
 - 1) The incomplete creation was Useless, Lifeless, and in Darkness (Gen 1:1-2a)
 - 2) God used the Holy Spirit and His spoken Word to make creation complete

(Gen

1:2b-3)

2. The Ministry is Powerful In Spite of Our Weakness (4:7)