

9 – THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S MINISTERS (2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18)

I. The General Principle (2 Corinthians 4:7)

A. The Carrier of the Treasure (2 Corinthians 4:7a)

- Mortal men have been entrusted with the message of the gospel.

B. The Purpose (2 Corinthians 4:7b)

- God demonstrates His power in Salvation by using mortal men.

II. The Circumstances of Paul's Ministry (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

A. Human Weakness

- Paul illustrates their weakness through the difficult circumstances they faced.

B. Divine Enablement

- Paul demonstrates that God enables them in spite of their weaknesses.

III. The Principle Restated (2 Corinthians 4:10-12)

A. The Message of Death and Life (2 Corinthians 4:10)

1. The Message They Carry (2 Corinthians 4:10a)

- Paul stated that they carried the message of Jesus' death.

2. The Purpose (2 Corinthians 4:10b)

- They carried this message in order to bring life to others.

B. The Principle (2 Corinthians 4:11)

1. The Nature of Their Ministry (2 Corinthians 4:11a)

- Paul stated that as he ministered, he constantly faced difficult circumstances.

2. The Purpose (2 Corinthians 4:11b)

- He faced those difficult circumstances to demonstrate the power of Jesus.

C. The Principle Repeated (2 Corinthians 4:12)

- Through human weakness, God's power of salvation is demonstrated.

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

IV. The Spirit of Faith (2 Corinthians 4:13-18)

A. Paul's Confidence (2 Corinthians 4:13)

- Paul could speak of his sufferings because he was confident that God would deliver him.

B. The Basis for His Confidence (2 Corinthians 4:14)

- Paul's confidence was based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Because of Christ' resurrection, he knew he would be resurrected.

C. The Benefit of Paul's Suffering (2 Corinthians 4:15)

- Paul suffered for the sake of Corinthian believers and the glory of God.

D. Continued Confidence (2 Corinthians 4:16)

- Paul continued in spite of his weaknesses because of God's enabling power.

E. The Nature of the Affliction (2 Corinthians 4:17)

- Paul understood that affliction was only for the moment.
- Paul stated that the coming glory was more important.

F. The Eternal Perspective (2 Corinthians 4:18)

- Paul's focus was the eternal, not the temporal.