

## REVIEW: 2:14-3:18

- In the last part of chapter 2, Paul begins speaking about himself and the apostles as being ministers of Christ.
- Paul doesn't need letters of recommendation as false apostles would, for the Corinthians themselves are Paul's letter of recommendation.



## REVIEW: 2:14-3:18

- Paul and the apostles are ministers of the new covenant that brings life, and God has made them sufficient to fulfill that role.
- Paul contrasts the ministry of the new covenant with the old. Because of the greater glory and the superiority of the new covenant, the apostles, including Paul, can have great boldness of speech.



# REVIEW

- How is the gospel of Christ both the aroma of death to death and the aroma of life to life?
  - To those who are perishing, it is the aroma of death to death. To those who are being saved it is the aroma of life to life, v.15-16
- True or False: The old covenant is referred to as “the letter”, and the new covenant is referred to as “of the Spirit”
  - True, v.6. See also Romans 7:6

# REVIEW

- True or False: The law of the Spirit is written in the hearts of men
  - True, 3:3
- The old covenant is described as
  - A) written on tablets of stone
  - B) the letter that kills
  - C) ministry of death
  - D) ministry of condemnation
  - E) glorious
  - F) passing away
  - G) all of the above
  - H) all of the above



# REVIEW

- The new covenant...
  - A) is written on the heart
  - B) is of the Spirit
  - C) gives life
  - D) is the ministry of the Spirit
  - E) is the ministry of righteousness
  - F) is more glorious
  - G) remains
  - H) all of the above
  - **H) all of the above**

## HIGH-LEVEL SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (10-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

# PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- I. Deep concern for the Corinthians (1:3-2:13)
  - A. Sincere Behavior (1:12-14)
  - B. Explaining change of plans and dealing with charge of fickleness (1:15-22)
  - C. Sparing the Corinthians a painful visit (1:23-24)
  - D. Why Paul wrote the former letter (2:1-4)
  - E. Reclaiming the penitent (2:5-11)
  - F. Anxiety in Troas (2:12-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

# PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- II. The Apostle's Ministry of the New Covenant (2:14-7:16)
  - A. The apostles – true ministers of Christ (2:14-17)
  - B. The Corinthians are Paul's letter of recommendation (3:1-3)
  - C. Paul, as God's minister of the new covenant, is made sufficient by God for this task (3:4-6)
  - D. The glory of the new covenant (3:7-11)
  - E. The reason for Paul's boldness (3:12-18)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)



# PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- II. The Apostle's Ministry of the New Covenant (2:14-7:16)
  - F. The character of the apostles (4:1-6)
  - G. The apostles' confidence and steadfastness (4:7-5:10)
  - H. The apostles' conduct and motives in their ministry (5:11-15)
  - I. Overview of the apostle's ministry (5:16-19)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)



## 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6

### PAUL'S CHARACTER

“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. {2} But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. {3} But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, {4} whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. {5} For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. {6} For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”



2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

THE APOSTLES: EARTHEN VESSELS CARRYING THE  
TREASURE OF THE GOSPEL

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

## 2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-12

### THE APOSTLES: SUFFERING SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; {9} persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — {10} always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. {11} For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. {12} So then death is working in us, but life in you.”



2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-15  
THE APOSTLES' CONFIDENCE

“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, ‘I believed and therefore I spoke,’ we also believe and therefore speak, {14} knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. {15} For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.”



## 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

### SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING & VISION

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. {17} For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, {18} while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”



# TAKE AWAYS

- The gospel is veiled for some people; they do not understand. Why? Because the God of this world has blinded them.
- The gospel is a treasure. The apostles were earthen vessels that carried it to the world.
  - We should be drawn to the message and not the preacher.



# TAKE AWAYS

- Our physical circumstance may be bad, but our spiritual health can be strong and even gaining in strength in those times.
- May we all exhibit the “spirit of faith” – “I believed, therefore I have spoken”





# TAKE AWAYS

- Christian, don't lose heart!
- The inner man needs to be renewed daily
- We need the perspective of Paul – the right view of afflictions, and looking to the eternal